

IN THE MAHONING COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PROBATE DIVISION

FILED

JUN - 2 2021

IN THE MATTER OF  
COURT OPERATIONAL  
MATTERS IN RESPONSE  
TO COVID-19

) Case No: 2020 MC 0041  
)  
) JUDGE ROBERT N. RUSU, JR.  
)  
) JOURNAL ENTRY

JUDGE ROBERT N. RUSU, JR.  
MAHONING COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

In response to the revised *Ohio Department of Health's Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Amended Order for Social Distancing, Facial Coverings and Non-Congregating*, the *Mahoning County Probate Court* finds that it is necessary to now make changes to its operating procedures as set forth in its March 13, 2020 *Journal Entry* and its subsequent May 4, 2020 *Journal Entry*.

In accordance with the guidelines issued on May 13, 2021 by the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, the Court hereby makes the following changes to its current operating procedures:

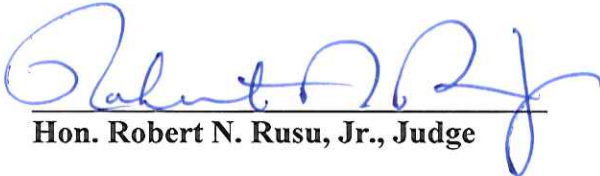
1. All fully vaccinated people are not required to wear masks coming into the *Mahoning County Probate Court*;
2. All individuals that are not fully vaccinated shall still be required to wear facial coverings at all times when inside the *Mahoning County Probate Court* unless directed otherwise by a Court employee;
3. Understanding that some individuals as well as employees still have valid concerns regarding their safety and the unknowns of the virus, the Court will keep in effect the following procedures:
  - a. No more two (2) individuals shall be allowed into the *Mahoning County Probate Court* filing counter at any one time. Others must remain in the Court hallway until an open window is available at the filing counter.
  - b. Proper social distancing protocols shall be observed by all individuals coming to the *Mahoning County Probate Court*.
  - c. The Court will continue to accept pleadings filed via:
    - i. in person at the *Mahoning County Probate Court* filing counter;
    - ii. email at [mcprobate@mahoningcountyoh.gov](mailto:mcprobate@mahoningcountyoh.gov);
    - iii. facsimile to 330-740-2325;

- iv. the *United States Postal Service* to the *Mahoning County Probate Court*, 120 Market Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Youngstown, Ohio 44503; and
  - v. placement into the *Mahoning County Probate Court* drop-box located outside the *Probate Court* in the *Mahoning County Courthouse* rotunda.
- d. Hearings are to be conducted in-person. When appropriate, any party may file a *Motion* with the Court, for individuals in a compromised health state, to attend hearings via telephone or video conferencing. It will be the responsibility of the attorney(s) or the interested parties to file the *Motion* with the Court prior to the hearing so that there is enough time for the Court to rule on the *Motion* and for any arrangements to be made ahead of time. However, there is no guarantee that the Court will approve these requests. All requests will be ruled upon on a case by case basis.
4. The Court encourages all persons to continue good hygiene habits such as hand washing and use of sanitation products while in the *Mahoning County Courthouse* and encourages the request for continuances for any individual with any health concern.
5. Any person, Counsel, witness, or party who is exhibiting symptoms or who has knowledge of a recent COVID-19 exposure requiring monitoring or quarantine, shall notify the *Mahoning County Probate Court* immediately and shall not attempt to enter the *Mahoning County Courthouse*.

This policy shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: June 2, 2021

  
Hon. Robert N. Rusu, Jr., Judge

**FILED**

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**JUDGE ROBERT N. RUSU, JR.  
MAHONING COUNTY PROBATE COURT  
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**