

CURTIS PARRISH
COUNTY JUDGE



KRISTEN WINDHAM
COURT COORDINATOR

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE
904 BROADWAY, ROOM 101
PO Box 10536
LUBBOCK, TEXAS 79408
PHONE 806.775.1679
FAX 806.775.7996

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR LUBBOCK COUNTY COURT

The Lubbock County Court has implemented a policy to minimize the spread of COVID-19, effective March 16, 2020.

PROBATE:

- To minimize risk to the public and court staff, the Court will allow telephonic hearings to probate a will and establish an administration. Please notify my Court Coordinator, Kristen Windham, at 806-775-1679 or kwindham@lubbockcounty.gov ASAP to attend the hearing via phone. *Please have your client and any witnesses meet at your office to avoid unnecessary complications.* For cases involving heirship- if the attorney ad litem files their report and there are no concerns, the ad litem's physical presence in court is not necessary, unless the ad litem wants or needs to participate telephonically. The Court will call the attorney's number provided to my court coordinator at the time of the scheduled hearing. Once the hearing is concluded and the order has been signed, the witnesses can execute their Proof of Death and Other Facts, and other relevant testimony, and the appointed personal representative can take the oath in front of a notary, all of which is then e-filed. **Do not execute any documents (i.e. oath and proof, etc.) prior to an order being signed.**

GUARDIANSHIP:

- Hearings will also be conducted telephonically. Additionally, the Court Investigator will not meet with the proposed ward in person prior to the guardianship hearing. Instead, she will rely on pleadings to make her determination whether less restrictive alternatives are available and ensure the application and medical certificate conform to the statutory requirements. The Court Investigator will contact the parties for newly filed guardianships to arrange an alternative visitation plan. If the attorney ad litem files their report and there are no concerns, the ad litem's physical presence in court is not necessary, unless the ad litem wants or needs to participate telephonically. If so, please contact Amy Collier at 806-775-1357.

MENTAL HEALTH:

- The Court is following the Office of Court Administration's recommendation to avoid unnecessary or unreasonable risk to participants, court staff, and public. Therefore, the Court has stopped utilizing emergency detentions of a person with a warrant. Law enforcement can do these interventions without a warrant. This will allow the Court to avoid requiring persons from having to come to the courthouse to file an application in person and having a peace officer execute a warrant. The Court will rely on warrantless detentions by our highly trained officers.

Temporary guardianships, temporary administrations, and all mental health proceedings will continue in person, and without delay given the strict statutory time constraints.

The above will be in place until at least April 17, 2020.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis Parrish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Curtis Parrish
Lubbock County Judge