

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF COLLETON)

**EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING COVID-19
OPERATING PROCEDURES**

COLLETON COUNTY
PROBATE COURT
2020 MAR 23 PM 4:19

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, I find that South Carolina law authorizes the Probate Judge to take such actions as may be lawful and appropriate to ensure court access and fairness while preserving the health and safety of the public. Accordingly, to protect public health and to provide access to Court services, the following measures are effective immediately:

1. **Public Access** - The Colleton County Probate Court will not allow general public access to the Probate Court until further Order of this Court.
2. **Hearings** - The Court will hear all emergency matters. Commitment hearings will be held via video conferencing. All non-emergency matters are postponed until further order of this Court. If it becomes appropriate to schedule a hearing, the Court will consider alternate methods of conducting the hearing such as video conferencing or telephone conferencing.
3. **Involuntary Commitment Paperwork** - To reduce paperwork being filed with the Court, all paperwork will be transmitted electronically.
4. **Filings** - All filings may be submitted by mail, e-mail (with original documents being sent later by mail), or may be placed in the drop-box outside of the Probate Court during normal Court hours. Should the Court be closed as a result of this emergency, documents will not be accepted for delivery at the Probate Court building. Please note, deliveries of mailings by private carriers such as FedEx or United Parcel Service may not occur if the building is closed. Any documents delivered to the Court will be subject to the quarantine period set forth below.
5. **Quarantine of Incoming Paper Documents** - To protect the safety of the Probate Court staff, incoming paper documents, whether delivered or mailed to the Court, may be subject to a 48-

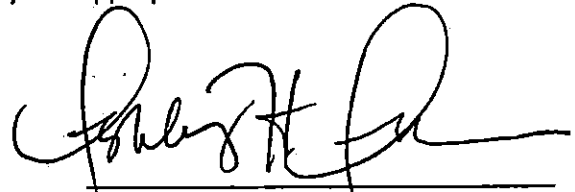
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hour quarantine period once they are physically received by the Court. Once the quarantine period has ended, these documents will be date stamped with the date on which they were received, and Court staff will then process the documents.

6. Marriages –

- a. The issuance of new marriage licenses is suspended. If there is an emergency, the public may contact the Court by email or telephone.
- b. The Court will not be performing wedding ceremonies until further notice.

The Court will amend or vacate this Order as necessary and appropriate.



Ashley H. Amundson, Probate Judge

Walterboro, South Carolina

March 23, 2020

AWA
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