

New Release  
Leelanau County Probate/Family Court  
Suttons Bay, MI – March 17, 2020

Governor Whitmer having declared a state of emergency in response to the serious health risks posed by COVID-19, trial courts are authorized to implement emergency measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus and provide the greatest protection possible to those who work and have business in our courts. In support of this goal, on order of the Court, each trial court judge may implement emergency measures regarding court operations to enable continued service while also mitigating the risk of further transmission of the virus.

To this end, the **Leelanau County Probate/Family Court will only conduct emergency hearings, effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Monday, April 13, 2020.** All hearings scheduled during this period will be adjourned to a date after June 1, 2020, except any currently scheduled emergency hearing, as detailed below. The Court will notify parties of adjourned hearings dates when the Court reopens.

**In Probate Court**, starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, only emergency hearings will be conducted. Emergency hearings include:

- mental health pick-up/transport orders
- other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization
- guardianships (of legally incapacitated or developmentally disabled individuals) involving life-threatening medical emergencies
- conservatorships with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices
- petitions for the sale of real property
- estates where immediate access to residence is necessary
- petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements
- requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders
- emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services

**In Family Court**, starting Tuesday, March 17, 2020, only emergency hearings will be conducted. Emergency hearings include:

- Removal petition in abuse and neglect matters
- Juvenile delinquency petitions that could warrant detention
- Personal Protection petition
- Personal Protection violations
- Ex Parte petitions in domestic relation cases
- Arraignment on bench warrants

The Court will be closed to the public as to all other matters. For emergency hearings, the Court will utilize remote appearance to the greatest extent possible. To arrange

appearance by telephone or videoconference, please contact the Court at (231) 256-9803 or [KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us) for Probate Court and [JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us) for Family Court. Details regarding how emergency hearings will be conducted will be decided on a case by case basis utilizing telephonic appearance, poly-com, and Zoom Video Conferencing. Non-essential to a case will not be allowed to enter the Leelanau County Government Center.

**The Leelanau County Government Center shall close effective 5:00 PM on March 17, 2020 until further notice.** There will be no in-person assistance at the front counter.

All non-emergency Probate petitions must be mailed to the Court at 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, MI 496982 with the appropriate fee included.

Petitions and documents for emergency matters in Probate Court or for any Family Court matters may be filed by using one of the following:

- via email, [KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us) for Probate Court
- via email [JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us) for Family Court.
- via facsimile at (231) 256-9845
- through U.S. mail, or
- through OnBase by attorneys for domestic relations matters

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we face this public health challenge together.

**CONTACT:**

Kris Mattis, Probate Register 231-256-9803 Ext 2 [KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:KMattis@co.leelanau.mi.us)

Joseph Povolo., Family Court Administration 231-256-9803 Ext 4 [JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us](mailto:JPovolo@co.leelanau.mi.us)