

Surrogate's Court of Ulster County

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ULSTER COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT OPERATIONS

Ulster County Surrogate's Court will resume operations beginning April 14, 2020, addressing essential matters, uncontested matters and pending cases through remote or virtual court operations. By his order dated April 9, 2020, Administrative Judge Thomas A. Breslin defined "essential matters" as "urgent guardianships, urgent adoptions, the issuance of temporary letters on urgent matters, the settlement of estates on urgent matters and other essential matters as determined by the Surrogate in consultation with the Administrative Judge."

Our Court facilities at 240 Fair Street in Kingston remain closed. Court personnel will not be answering the telephone at this time. Mail should continue to be sent to the Court at Ulster Surrogate's Court, PO Box 1800, Kingston, New York 12402. All other communications with the Court should be made by email: ulstersurrogatecourt@nycourts.gov. Attorneys shall continue to file petitions and other documents electronically in accordance with the Court's e-filing guidelines found on our website.

All matters scheduled to be heard at calendars through April 30, 2020, have been administratively adjourned until on or after April 30, 2020 by order of Judge Breslin dated March 16, 2020. As we continue to expand Court operations, we anticipate that employing a virtual courtroom will permit us to reinstate the calendar.

For contested cases with filed proceedings, the Court *will* assess matters that can be advanced or resolved through remote court conferencing and will schedule and hold conferences by *Skype for Business* in such matters upon its own initiative, and where appropriate at the request of counsel. Video teleconferences conducted by the Court, or with Court participation, will be administered exclusively through *Skype for Business*. To request a conference on a pending proceeding, please email the Court. Attorneys and parties seeking to participate in a conference should note that they will need to download *Skype for Business* on their computer or smartphone.

We thank you for your patience and will send out additional notices as the Court's virtual operations are refined and expanded. Again, we encourage you to direct your questions or concerns to the Court at ulstersurrogatecourt@nycourts.gov.