

MAY 01 2020

By M. Fields  
DEPUTY CLERK

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**

**COUNTY OF SOLANO**

**DEPARTMENT EIGHT**

\* \* \* \*

Case No.: MISC 002721

In Re: Probate, LPS and Guardianship Matters

**AMENDED STANDING ORDER  
REGARDING PROBATE, LPS AND  
GUARDIANSHIP MATTERS DURING  
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS  
(EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2020)**

**THE COURT FINDS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. On February 27, 2020, the County of Solano proclaimed a local emergency to exist due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8630 et seq. On March 4, 2020, California Governor Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19 pursuant to Government Code, §§ 8550 et seq. On March 13, 2020, President Trump proclaimed a national state of emergency to exist due to COVID-19.

2. On March 18, 2020, the Solano County Health Officer issued an order effective through April 7, 2020, directing all individuals living in Solano County to shelter at their place of residence except to provide or receive certain essential services or engage in certain essential activities on behalf of businesses and governmental agencies. The order further directed businesses and governmental agencies to cease non-essential activities at places within Solano

1 County and to cease non-essential gatherings. That order has been extended twice and is now  
2 effective through May 17, 2020.

3 3. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-20 ordering all  
4 individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or their place of residence except as  
5 needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors.  
6 Executive Order N-33-20 is in effect until further notice.

7 4. On March 17, 30 and April 29, 2020, acting as the Chair of the Judicial Council, Chief  
8 Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye granted the application for emergency orders sought by the  
9 Solano County Superior Court pursuant to Government Code, § 68115. The current order  
10 authorizes emergency operations through May 28, 2020. Pursuant to Government Code,  
11 §68115(a)(4), due to the existence of an emergency condition that substantially interferes with  
12 the public's ability to file papers in court, the days are deemed "holidays" for the purpose of  
13 computing time for filing papers with the court under sections 12 and 12a of the Code of Civil  
14 Procedure.  
15

16 5. On March 17, April 3 and 29, 2020, Solano County Superior Court Presiding Judge  
17 Donna Stashyn issued a General Order re: Implementation of Emergency Relief authorizing  
18 implementation of emergency orders by individual judicial officers as needed for their division.  
19

20 6. On March 23 and 30 and April 29, 2020, the Chief Justice issued statewide emergency  
21 orders. Provisions of these orders include continuance of jury trials and the delegation of  
22 authority to trial courts to establish rules necessary to address the impact of the COVID-19  
23 pandemic to take effect immediately. In response to the pandemic, the Judicial Council issued  
24 Emergency Rules 1-13 and Circulating Orders CO-20-06 and CO-20-07.  
25

1           7. On March 19, 2020, the Solano County Superior Court announced the reduction of  
2 operations to implement the order of the State Health Officer and Solano County Health Officer  
3 and to focus on public safety.

4           **BASED UPON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, IT IS ORDERED:**

5           1. Protection of public health and safety in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic  
6 has necessitated the reduction in court operations. While the court has limited operations, the  
7 operations are restricted to processing and hearing essential matters that are required to comply  
8 with an individual's constitutional rights, necessitate emergency relief and/or to protect the  
9 health and safety of the public. The orders to shelter in place substantially interfere with the  
10 ability of civil litigants to access legal resources, seek legal assistance and/or file necessary  
11 legal documents.

12           2. Effective April 3, 2020, letters establishing special powers of administration in  
13 probate or estate matters which expire during the period of emergency operations were  
14 extended 60 days from their current date of expiration.

15           3. Letters establishing temporary guardianship or conservatorship of a person and/or  
16 estate are extended to May 28, 2020. All hearings related to guardianships and probate  
17 conservatorships will be postponed with written notice to be provided by the court.

18           4. Commencing May 10, 2020, the court will process and set court dates for initial  
19 petitions for letters of administration and petitions to establish fact/time/place of  
20 birth/marriage/death in probate matters.

21           5. All probate cases, with the exception of probate conservatorships, will remain on  
22 calendar and will be heard through remote proceedings via Zoom, telephone conference call or  
23 CourtCall. Cases in which required publication has been completed will also remain on  
24  
25

1 calendar to be heard in a physical courtroom. However, parties and counsel are expected to  
2 appear remotely via Zoom, telephone conference call or CourtCall. Interested persons who  
3 have received notice of the proceedings are also encouraged to appear remotely. Personal  
4 appearances are strongly discouraged.

5           5. Effective May 1, 2020, LPS conservatorships are extended until May 28, 2020,  
6 unless otherwise specifically ordered. Currently calendared cases will remain on calendar and  
7 will be heard through remote proceedings through Zoom, telephone conference call or  
8 CourtCall unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge or Civil Supervising Judge.

9           6. Throughout the period of emergency operations, the Solano County Superior Court  
10 has remained open to receive filings by drop box, regular mail or delivery. Unless good cause  
11 exists, it is expected that parties are able to file necessary pleadings to be prepared for  
12 appearances in remote court. Parties should continue to review the posted pre-grant rulings  
13 which will also include information regarding Zoom meeting appearances and the telephone  
14 conference line associated to the Zoom meeting.  
15

16           7. For information on how remote court is administered and requirements of  
17 participants, please refer to the Standing Order regarding Remote Proceedings for additional  
18 information.

19           8. Because of the rapidly evolving situation and response to the COVID-19 pandemic,  
20 in the event the need for emergency operations resolves earlier than May 28, 2020, this order  
21 may be revisited.  
22

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 Dated: April 29, 2020



25 **WENDY G. GETTY**  
**Supervising Civil Judge**  
**Solano County Superior Court**