

**Presiding State Statutory Probate Judge
Administrative Order 2020-4**

Pursuant to Government Code § 25.0022(d)(1), the undersigned, as Presiding Statutory Probate Judge, finds that it is necessary to issue a second administrative order in ensuring the promulgation of local rules of administration in accordance with policies and guidelines set by the Supreme Court in response to the restriction of in-person visitors to hospitals, nursing homes, and other certain residential facilities, such as long-term care facilities or assisted living facilities, as a result of the COVID-19 emergency. This Administrative Order requires all Statutory Probate Courts to issue local orders that conform to the following:

1. Authorizing the constable or sheriff, in a guardianship proceeding, to accomplish personal service by alternate methods on a proposed ward or ward who is located in a facility that is prohibiting in-person visits, such as:
 - a. leaving a true copy of the citation, with a copy of the petition attached, with anyone over eighteen years of age at the facility who commits in advance to deliver the citation to the proposed ward or ward subject to the citation; or
 - b. by affixing the citation on the door to the entrance of the facility in which the proposed ward or ward is located; and

2. Allowing the attorney ad litem and guardian ad litem who are appointed in a guardianship proceeding to accomplish their visits with the proposed ward or ward who is currently in a facility that is prohibiting in-person visits by using alternative methods of communication either through any technology applications that allows visual face-time communication or over the phone.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that the Statutory Probate Courts to issue local orders that conform with this Administrative Order.

Costs, if any, for this filing are waived.

Signed on the 6th day of April, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Herman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Guy Herman, Presiding Judge
Statutory Probate Courts of Texas