

**Presiding State Statutory Probate Judge
Administrative Order 2020-1**

Pursuant to Government Code § 25.0022(d)(1), the undersigned, as Presiding Statutory Probate Judge, finds that it is necessary to issue an 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 closure of nursing homes and other residential facilities for persons under guardianship in the State of Texas to visitors as a result of the COVID-19 situation. This Administrative Order requires all Statutory Probate Courts to issue local orders that conform to the following:

1. Suspension of the requirement for a guardian to conduct an in-person monthly visit with the ward until further order of the court or 30 days after the end of the disaster declaration if the guardian cannot complete the visit due to the virus;

2. Authorizes the guardian to attempt to conduct a visit with the ward through any technology applications that allows visual face-time communication or over the phone;

3. If the ward is not able to communicate, the guardian should obtain a status report from someone on the staff at the facility who has contact with the ward; and

4. Requiring the guardian to document visits – or attempted visits – and file reports with the court regarding no-visitation measures taken at facilities where wards reside. If the guardian receives written communication from the facility, the guardian should

file a copy with the report to the court and maintain a copy for the guardian's records. The guardian shall comply with this requirement by filing the information with the annual report covering such visits and if consistent with this order, the Court shall approve the guardian's action by approving the annual report.

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 31st day of March, 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