

Montgomery County Register of Wills, D. Bruce Hanes, Announces Procedure to Permit Petitions to Probate Estates and Apply for Marriage Licenses Through Video Conferencing

The ongoing Judicial Emergency for Montgomery County has closed the Register of Wills Office through May 31, 2020 for all but emergency needs. This Judicial Emergency may need to be extended further to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Montgomery County Register of Wills recognizes that, despite the ongoing health crisis, estates still need to be opened and that people are still seeking to be married. Accordingly, a pilot program that utilizes video conferencing technology to open estates and to obtain marriage licenses is being established, temporarily, at this time.

Probate

For this remote procedure, you must call 610-278-3400 and leave a message on the voice mail or email ROWSupport@montcopa.org with your contact information. Please note to say “*Request to Open Probate*” in the call or put it in the subject line of the email. You will be contacted by a representative of the Register of Wills Office and instructed to scan copies of all original relevant documents and send to the Register’s Office by email. Once the Register is supplied with the necessary documentation, arrangements will be made to set up a video conference call to take necessary payments (by check) and to swear in the Executor or Administrator.

The original signed documents will then need to be submitted for final review via an overnight delivery service. **MAKE SURE THAT THE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE HAS A TRACKING FEATURE!** A prepaid and addressed return envelope must also be submitted. Once the original signed documents are reviewed and accepted by the Register’s Office, the estate will be opened, and Short Certificates issued.

Marriage Licenses

For this remote procedure, please call 610-278-3400 and leave a message on the voice mail or email ROWSupport@montcopa.org with your contact information. Please note to say “*Request to apply for Marriage License*” in the call or put it in the subject line of the email. You will be contacted by a representative of the Register of Wills Office and instructed to scan and email a copy of a government issued photo identification for the people seeking the license. If either party has been married before, they will be directed to scan and email a copy of the applicable divorce decree or death certificate. Included in the email must be a contact phone number for one or both of the parties. Arrangements will then be made to set up a video conference call during which both people seeking the marriage license must participate, take an oath and sign the application.

The original signed documents along with a check for \$53 are to be submitted for final review via an overnight delivery service. **MAKE SURE THAT THE OVERNIGHT DELIVERY SERVICE HAS A TRACKING FEATURE!** A prepaid and addressed return envelope must also be submitted. Once the original signed documents are reviewed and accepted by the Register’s Office, the marriage license will be issued and sent to the applicants.