

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

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**REGISTER OF WILLS OFFICE ANNOUNCES NEW VIRTUAL SERVICES FOR
PROBATE AND MARRIAGE LICENSES**

PHILADELPHIA, PA - Though the Register of Wills office, along with its Orphans' Court and Marriage Services divisions, remain closed during the COVID-19, the office realizes that emergencies arise and some matters must be handled in a timely fashion. As such, the Register of Wills Office will offer virtual operations of both probate and marriage license services beginning Monday, April 6. These services will be available on an emergency basis and will be provided according to criteria established by the Register of Wills office. Please see below for some important guidelines on services.

- 1) Services will only be available via video conference. Individuals **must have a smart device or computer with video conferencing capabilities** in order to take advantage of these services.
- 2) Informal caveats (requests that the Register not grant letters on an estate without notifying the caveator) **will only be accepted by USPS Overnight Certified Mail**
- 3) The Register will only be issuing Quaker (or self-uniting) marriage licenses at this time
 - a) Marriage licenses **cannot be used for 3 days** following issuance, and will **only remain valid for 60 days after issuance**.
 - b) Those granted marriage licenses prior to the office closing can be married by an officiant and submit duplicate copy. **To prove marriage for legal reasons, applicants must have a certified copy of the license from the Register's office.**
- 4) At least one marriage license applicant must be a Philadelphia resident.
- 5) Attorney representation is **required** for probate services. Pro se (self-representation) estates are **not eligible** for virtual services

Once the documents for a marriage license are received, reviewed, and accepted, a clerk will contact the applicant(s) to schedule a virtual appointment. For probate cases, once the documents have been accepted a clerk will contact the attorney of record and the personal representative. Appointments will be scheduled via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Please click [here](#) for more information on virtual marriage license services. Please click [here](#) for more information on virtual probate services.

These are uncertain times for everyone, but the Register of Wills office is dedicated to assisting Philadelphians while ensuring the safety and well-being of employees and communities alike.

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