

Bucks County Register of Wills Linda Bobrin Announces Pilot Project to Open Probate Estates and Seek Marriage Licenses Via Videoconferencing

The ongoing Judicial Emergency for Bucks County has closed the Register of Wills Office through at least April 14, 2020 for all but emergency needs. This Judicial Emergency may be need to be extended to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Bucks County Register of Wills Linda Bobrin recognizes that, despite the ongoing health crisis, estates still need to be opened and that people are still seeking to be married. Accordingly, Register Bobrin announces the initiation of a pilot program that utilizes teleconferencing technology to open estates and to obtain marriage licenses.

Probate

Please go to www.buckscounty.org/rowocrecords and log in as a guest. Click the link to e-File Petition for Grant of Letters. You will see a list of the information and documents necessary to begin to open an estate. Please fill out the online form and submit. **For purposes of our pilot program, we require that copies of all the listed documents be scanned and emailed to eprobate@buckscounty.org.** Please put "Request to Open Probate" in the subject line and include a phone number at which the proposed Executor or Administrator or attorney can be reached to make sure the submitted documents are in order. Once the Register is supplied with the necessary documentation, arrangements will be made to set up a videoconference call to take necessary payments (by credit card only) 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 with a tracking system. A prepaid and addressed return envelope must also be submitted. Once the original signed documents are reviewed and accepted, the estate will be opened and Short Certificates issued.

Marriage Licenses

Please go to www.buckscounty.org/rowocrecords and log in as a guest. Click the link to e-File Marriage License Application. Once the Application is submitted, kindly email us at eprobate@buckscounty.org. Please put "Request for Marriage License" in the subject line. **For purposes of our pilot program, we require that a copy of government-issued photo identification for the people seeking marriage be scanned and emailed to us in advance.** If either party has been married before, please send 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. Be prepared to provide credit card information for payment of the application fee of \$83.00. Once the Register is supplied with the necessary documentation, arrangements will be made to set up a videoconference call **at which both people seeking the marriage license must participate.**

The original signed application for a marriage license will then need to be submitted for final review via an overnight delivery service with a tracking system. A prepaid and addressed return envelope must also be submitted. Once the original signed documents are reviewed and accepted, the license will be issued and returned via return overnight mail.

If you have questions or need help with these new procedures, please email us at eprobate@buckscounty.org. Please indicate in the subject line if your question involves probate or marriage, and include a contact phone number. One of our clerks will call you and assist you through the process.

This is a pilot program designed to address the present emergency. Register Bobrin asks the patience and indulgence of the public and attorneys as our Office gets this program up and running. We welcome your feedback and suggestions at the email address of eprobate@buckscounty.org.

-Linda Bobrin, Esquire
Register of Wills and Clerk of Orphans' Court