

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY  
ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE DOCKET**

**No. 17 of 2021**

***In Re: Resumption of In-Person Proceedings and Availability of Hybrid Hearings***

**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2021, recognizing the need to ensure continued protection of the public, attorneys, litigants, witnesses, employees of the Clerk of Orphans' Court and the First Judicial District as the Court resumes its operations, and recognizing the increased availability of the Covid-19 vaccines to all adults in Philadelphia County, it is hereby **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that, in accordance with all required health and safety guidelines, **effective May 17, 2021:**

- (1) in-person judicial proceedings will resume on a limited basis at the sole discretion of each individual Orphans' Court Judge on a case-by-case basis;
- (2) hybrid judicial proceedings, involving both in-person and remote appearances through Zoom or other Advanced Communication Technology, may be conducted at the sole discretion of each individual Orphans' Court Judge on a case-by-case basis; and
- (3) all other judicial proceedings will continue to be conducted through the use of Advanced Communication Technology until further order of this court.

All necessary safety and health protocols as may be adopted and amended from time to time by the Centers for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health and the First Judicial District will be followed and enforced, including the mask-mandate and social distancing protocols. The *Orphans' Court's Protocols and Guidelines for Conducting In-Person and Hybrid Judicial Proceedings*, which include specific provisions regarding access to City Hall, and resumption of in-person judicial proceedings and hybrid proceedings, are published on the Court's website at [www.courts.phila.gov/covid-19](http://www.courts.phila.gov/covid-19) and may be amended from time to time.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ *Sheila Woods-Skipper*

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**Hon. Sheila Woods-Skipper  
Administrative Judge  
Orphans' Court Division**