

NOTICE

GUARDIANSHIPS OF INCAPACITATED ADULTS – REQUIRED USE OF eCOURTS GUARDIANSHIP FOR POST-JUDGMENT CASE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING; RELAXATION OF COURT RULE 4:86-1(b)

As part of the ongoing effort to expand eCourts for the Superior Court pursuant to Court Rule 1:32-2A(a), the Judiciary has recently implemented enhancements to eCourts for post-judgment case management and for the monitoring of adult guardianship matters in the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Probate Part. By its November 29, 2021 order (attached), the Supreme Court is requiring the use of **eCourts Guardianship** by the court and County Surrogates and their staff for post-judgment functions in adult guardianship matters beginning January 1, 2022.

County Surrogates will continue using the separate case management systems provided by their respective counties for guardianship functions such as docketing and scheduling pre- and post-judgment applications; generating and issuing letters of guardianship and other qualification documents; and collecting fees in accordance with N.J.S.A. 22A:2-30 et seq.

Consistent with the Supreme Court's [May 5, 2020 Order](#), attorneys, court-appointed guardians, and self-represented litigants should at present continue to file all adult guardianship documents with the County Surrogates on paper.

The Court in its November 29, 2021 order also supplemented and relaxed the provisions of Rule 4:86-1(b) so as to provide that Judiciary records of all guardianship actions shall be maintained by the Clerk of the Superior Court in accordance with Rule 1:32-2A.

Questions about this Notice may be directed to Assistant Director for Civil Practice Taironda E. Phoenix at (609) 815-2900 ext. 54900 or Taironda.Phoenix@njcourts.gov, or Superior Court Clerk Michelle M. Smith at (609) 815-2900 ext. or Michelle.Smith@njcourts.gov.



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: December 8, 2021

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Court Rule 1:32-2A(a) provides that the Administrative Director of the Courts, with the approval of the Chief Justice, may develop and implement electronic court systems, including applications or systems for the purpose of electronic filing, electronic record keeping, or electronic indexing of data and documents. To that end, the Judiciary over a number of years has implemented eCourts for the Superior Court of New Jersey, including in Criminal, Tax Court, Foreclosure, Civil, Special Civil Part (“DC” docket), and Landlord Tenant (“LT” docket), and for post-judgment case management and monitoring of adult guardianship matters in the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Probate Part. As part of this ongoing effort to continue to expand the areas covered by eCourts, the Judiciary has recently implemented enhancements to eCourts for the monitoring of adult guardianships. Accordingly, beginning January 1, 2022, use of eCourts Guardianship is required for all users, including but not limited to County Surrogates and their staff, performing post-judgment functions in adult guardianship matters.

Court Rule 4:86-1(b) provides that Judiciary records of all guardianship actions brought under Rule 4:86-1(a) shall be maintained by the Surrogate and shall be accessible pursuant to Rule 1:38-3(e).

In furtherance of the use of eCourts pursuant to Rule 1:32A(a), and to harmonize these provisions of the Rules of Court to that end, it is ORDERED that the provisions of Rule 4:86-1(b) are supplemented and relaxed so as to provide that Judiciary records of all guardianship actions shall be maintained

by the Clerk of the Superior Court in accordance with Rule 1:32-2A. This rule relaxation shall remain in effect pending development and adoption of conforming rule amendments.

For the Court,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart Rosen".

Chief Justice

Date: November 29, 2021