

FILED
BY: [Signature]
2020 MAR 31 PM 2:16
KYLENA TINNELL
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

IN THE MATTER OF,

MODIFIED INVESTIGATIONS BY
THE PUBLIC FIDUCIARY AND
COURT APPOINTED
INVESTIGATORS FOR
PATIENTS IN MEDICAL OR
PSYCHIATRIC CARE FACILITIES
DURING THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC HEALTH CRISIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 16

WHEREAS, Mohave County Superior Court is committed to combating COVID-19, protecting the health and safety of community members, court staff, county employees, attorneys, and contractors; and

WHEREAS, Mohave County Superior Court acknowledges that hospitals and care facilities are prohibiting public access to those facilities in an effort to minimize the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Mohave County Superior Court is committed to protecting the rights of proposed wards and/or protected persons who are patients in medical or psychiatric facilities in Title 14 Guardianship/Conservatorship matters while balancing the need to follow national, state, and local guidance and orders limiting public contact and encouraging social distancing; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Arizona Supreme Court encouraged the elimination of in-
2 person contact to the extent possible in Administrative Order 2020-48; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Arizona Supreme Court authorized the Presiding Superior
4 Court Judge to adopt local rules and orders to address the current public health
5 emergency to enable necessary court operations in Administrative Order 2020-
6 48;

7
8 **IT IS ORDERED** that statutorily mandated investigations in Title 14
9 Guardianship/Conservatorship proceedings where the patient is in a medical or
10 psychiatric care facility be conducted on a modified basis, utilizing collateral
11 sources of information to the extent possible by reviewing relevant records and
12 conducting secondary source interviews;

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Public Fiduciary and/or Court
14 appointed investigator conduct electronic or telephonic interviews with the patient
15 in a medical or psychiatric care facility to the extent practicable in order to avoid
16 in-person contact;

17 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all reports to the Court specify the
18 manner in which the investigation was conducted and all collateral sources of
19 information utilized by the reporter.

20
21 DATED this 31st day of March, 2020

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23 
24 Honorable Charles W. Gurtler Jr., Presiding Judge
25 Mohave County Superior Court

26 **Original filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court in Mohave County**