

As of September 7, 2021, the County Court returned to in-person hearings.

The County Court will accommodate applicants who must travel long distances to hearings with a Zoom link. **Any request for remote participation by the applicant or witnesses must be scheduled by the attorney with the Court Coordinator no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.** It is the responsibility of the attorney to ensure that the applicant has a working knowledge of Zoom prior to the hearing.

All uncontested probate matters will be held in the Judge's Conference Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Contested probate matters and all guardianship hearings will be heard in the Courtroom on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.

**Please note the following:**

1. File an Order Setting Hearing *after* the hearing date/time is confirmed.
  - Hearings on Small Estate Affidavits are not required.
2. If an AAL is appointed, confirm that their report is filed *prior* to the hearing.
3. If there are any special accommodations needed for the hearing, notify the Court 48 hours prior to the hearing.
4. Proposed orders should be filed **48-72 hours prior** to the hearing.

**Do not execute any documents (i.e. oath and proof, etc.) prior to an order being signed.** No duties are created until after the executor/administrator has been appointed. (Estates Code 305.002)

After the hearing is concluded, the witnesses can execute their proof of death and other facts, and other relevant testimony. The appointed personal representative can take the oath in front of a notary, all of which is then e-filed with the court instructions.