

# Memo

**To:** LCBA members

**From:** Probate Commissioner Jewell Harris Jr.  
Probate Commissioner Benjamin T. Ballou

**cc:** Honorable Marissa J. McDermott  
Honorable Bruce D. Parent

**Date:** March 1, 2021

**Re:** In-person and virtual hearings

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Effective March 1, 2021, the Lake Circuit Probate Court and the Lake Superior Court, Room 7 Probate Court will resume scheduling in-person hearings for contested matters which require witness testimony, submission of exhibits, etc. All CDC recommendations and guidelines must be adhered to (mask wearing, social distancing, etc.). We will continue to utilize Zoom/Cisco WebEx to conduct virtual hearings on uncontested matters, status hearings, and the like. If an attorney or party believes a contested hearing can be held virtually as opposed to in-person, a request shall be made in writing setting forth the reasons supporting the request and filed with the Court. The Court will undertake a review of the request and reach out to counsel to determine what is appropriate in light of all circumstances. Most importantly, please review the court orders carefully to confirm whether your hearing will be conducted in-person or virtually. We will do our best to make sure the orders that we enter clearly identify whether your hearing will proceed in-person or virtually. Please contact the Court and its staff with any questions. (219) 755-3305, Option 1 (Lake Superior Probate Court, Room 7) or Option 2 (Lake Circuit Probate Court). We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on court operations.