

Surrogate's Chambers

Hon. Brandon R. Sall
Surrogate
Westchester County



Westchester County Courthouse
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
White Plains, New York 10601
(914) 824-5654

July 16, 2020

Re: **COVID-19 Virus**

Dear Westchester County Official:

I hope all is well with you and your staff during this challenging time.

As all of us know, Westchester County has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 virus. Westchester Surrogate's Court expects to have a significant increase in filings as a result of the deaths in our County. My concern is that many of our fellow residents may not know where to turn to for help when one of their family members has passed.

Under the leadership of the Honorable Janet DiFiore, Chief Judge of the State of New York, all Surrogate's Courts must give priority to those decedents who have passed as a result of the COVID-19 virus.

Additionally, Chief Judge DiFiore, in conjunction with the New York State Bar Association, has established a *pro bono* counsel program to help people navigate the Surrogate's Court during this difficult time. To date, over 650 lawyers statewide have agreed to volunteer their services for the families who have been affected by a COVID-19 death. If any of your constituents want to avail themselves of the *pro bono* legal services, the information for the program can be found at <https://nysba.org/surrogatescourt/>.

Finally, our Court's website can also be helpful as it contains valuable information about our Court, including forms that your constituents can use to prepare their filings. The Court website can be located at <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/COURTS/9jd/westchester/westchestersurrogate.shtml> and any questions can be directed to our Deputy Chief Clerk, Eugene Yates at eyates@nycourts.gov or (914) 824-5640.

And, of course, if you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon R. Sall".

Brandon R. Sall
Surrogate, Westchester County