



PROBATE POWER POINTS



for FULTON'S FAMILIES & FUTURES

A PUBLICATION OF THE FULTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT | SUMMER 2021

6 MONTHS OF SUCCESS!

THANK YOU!

Thank you for entrusting me to lead the Probate Court of Fulton County. In our first 180 days, we have begun many new initiatives designed to improve your customer experience. Wait times for firearms licenses have been improved, marriage ceremonies have begun, and virtual hearings have resumed for contested estate matters. With the support of Fulton County management, we have hired additional clerks, purchased needed fingerprinting equipment and improved the efficiency of our operations. In the months to come, you will see a new and improved Probate Court with a facelift and new location. Look for our Community Ambassadors in your neighborhood and senior centers as we continue to educate communities about Probate Court's life-improving services. We remain dedicated to Fulton's families and futures, and we look forward to serving you.

Judge Kenya M. Johnson



Probate Snapshot*

* numbers reflect increased COVID-19 demand

January - July

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marriage Licenses | Weapons Carry Licenses |
| 6,589 | 14,037 |
| Decedent Estates Opened | |
| 2,947 | |

Probate Services To Help Your Family

One of the functions of the Probate Court is to ensure that estates and guardianships are administered in accordance with the law.

Estates Division:

- Manages the probate of wills and estates.
- Appoints and removes executors and administrators.
- Oversees sale and disposition of estate property.

Minor & Adult Guardianships Division:

- Appoints and removes guardians of minors and incapacitated adults.
- Conducts audits of executors, administrators, and guardians.
- Issues commitment orders for mentally ill, alcohol and drug abusers.

Licensing Division:

- Issues marriage licenses and weapons carry licenses.
- Conducts background checks for safety.

Other Services:

- Issues fireworks permits.
- Keeps record of elected officials' oaths and bonds, and certificates of residence.

Probate Information Law Center FREE LEGAL ADVICE



Probate Court of Fulton County
Judge Kenya M. Johnson

**YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS?
WE'VE GOT ANSWERS!**

FREE PROBATE LAW CONSULTATIONS WITH VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS FOR UP TO 30 MINUTES.

FOR A TELEPHONE APPOINTMENT, CONTACT
(404) 612-4681

PROBATE INFORMATION CENTER

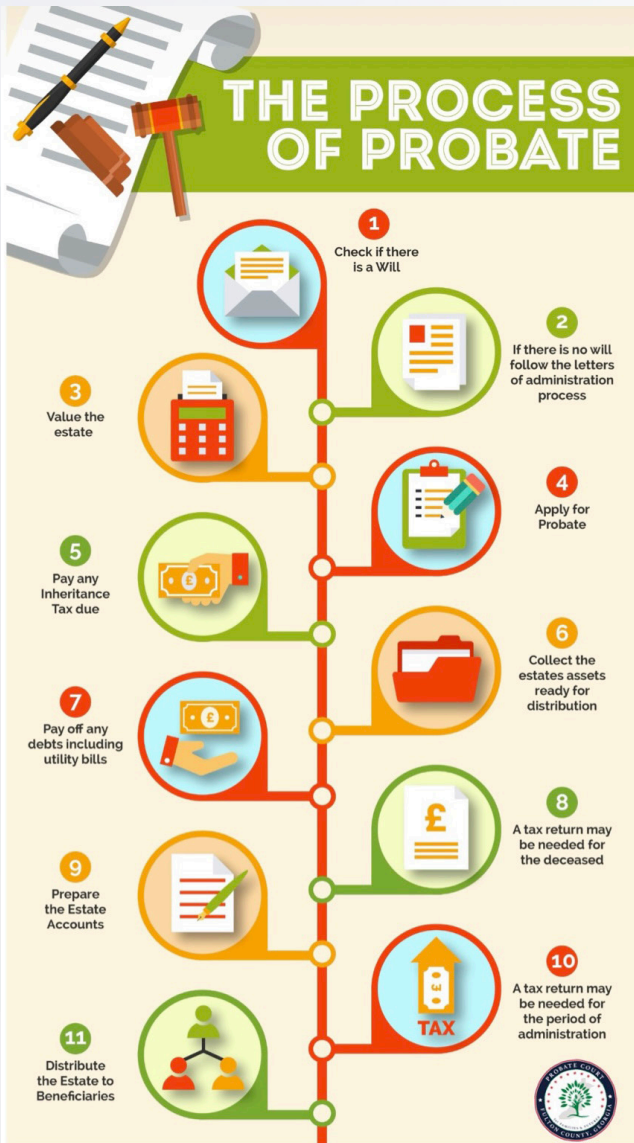
THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A CONFIDENTIAL, ONE-TIME CONSULTATION AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP.

THE PROBATE INFORMATION CENTER IS A JOINT PROJECT OF THE PROBATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY, THE PROBATE SECTION OF THE ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION AND THE ATLANTA VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOUNDATION.

ATLANTA BAR ASSOCIATION civif

FOR FULTON'S FAMILIES & FUTURES

The Probate Information Center (PIC) is a project of Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, the Fulton County Probate Court and the Estate Planning & Probate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Volunteer attorneys provide free 30-minute appointments for counseling individuals with questions about active probate matters where the deceased person lived in Fulton County. Common areas of consultation include the probate of simple wills, the administration of estates, and poverty affidavits. To schedule a virtual appointment, **please call 404-612-4681 or email Sheila.Price@fultoncountyga.gov**.



Funeral Assistance for Georgians Who Lost Loved Ones to COVID-19



FEMA has begun accepting applications for funeral assistance for Georgians who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

Georgians who paid for funeral expenses for an individual whose death may have been caused by or was likely the result of COVID-19 can apply for **up to \$9,000** of assistance per funeral through FEMA's dedicated call center at **844-684-6333; TTY 800-462-7585, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM EST - 9:00 PM EST.**

Pandemic Courthouse Weddings

Love prevails, even during a pandemic. Probate Court has long offered popular mass wedding ceremonies at the courthouse. During the pandemic, in-person ceremonies were halted but never forgotten. For Valentine's Day, Probate Court partnered with Superior Court Judge Shermela Williams and East Point municipal judge Rashida Oliver to help approximately 20 couples anxious to tie the knot. Probate Court looks forward to resuming mass wedding ceremonies during safer times.



Valentine's Day Weddings at the Courthouse

Safety Day at the Range for Fulton's Leaders



In May, 2021, Probate Judge Kenya Johnson partnered with the Fulton Solicitor-General Keith Gammage and County Sheriff Pat Labat to host a safety day at the county's gun training range. Elected officials, community leaders and public servants were invited to learn from police experts on gun safety and protection. Participants performed safety drills, learned about active shooter defense and received gun safety tips. "It takes leadership to improve safety. We are proud to offer opportunities for Fulton's county and its city leaders to train with instructors so that they can share gun safety lessons with their communities and constituents." reports Judge Johnson.



Court Background Checks

NEW for 2021

Beginning June, 2021, Probate Court began processing background checks for weapons carry licenses. Previously customers had to apply for Weapons Carry licenses in Probate Court and then travel to a police agency for fingerprinting for a separate charge. By performing fingerprinting services on-site with trained probate clerks, customers will enjoy a more convenient process and quicker return of license applications. Currently, Probate Court fingerprinting services are performed at our central downtown location only. License customers may still get fingerprinted at our north and south annex locations through our partnership with Fulton County Police Department.

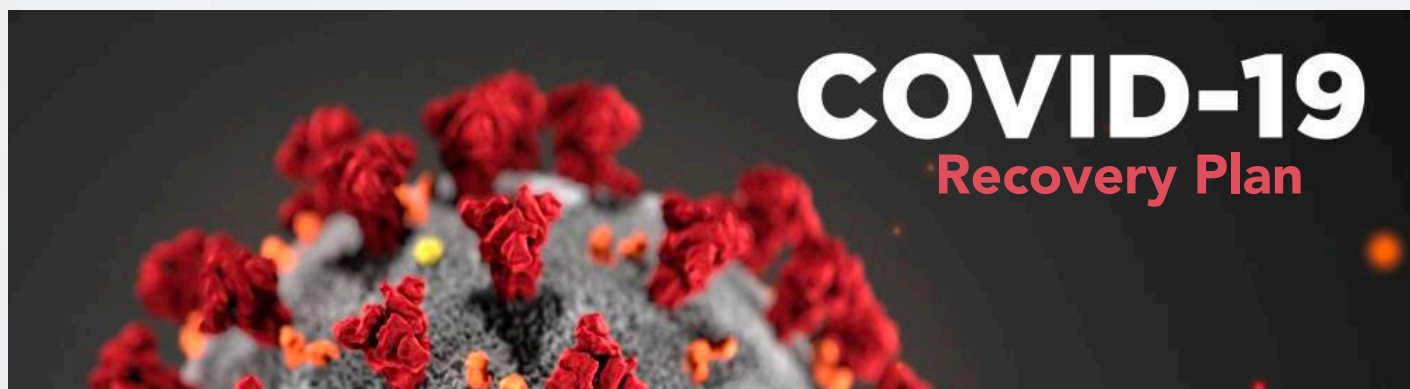


ProbateExpress **Limited Annex** **Services**

In an effort to reduce wait times for probate services at our north and south annexes, Probate Court introduces "ProbateExpress"- limited service locations to provide our most common services - weapons and marriage licenses. Customers with estate and civil filings will be able to drop off paperwork at each annex location to be processed downtown. "By limiting probate services at our annexes, we can serve our highest volume customers in the most efficient way. We will continue to accept estate filings for residents at our annexes and customers with extensive probate matters and questions can receive full services at our central, downtown location," announced Judge Kenya Johnson.

New Downtown Location for Licenses

The Probate Court's licensing department was impacted by recent flooding and has been relocated within the Fulton County Government complex. For those seeking to apply for Firearm or Marriage licenses, please visit our new location on the **2nd floor of 141 Pryor Street** until further notice. This new, convenient location also offers touchless fingerprinting services for health and safety.



More Hearing Officers to Move Backlog Cases

As part of Fulton County's pandemic recovery plan, Probate Court hired seasonal hearing officers to serve as judges over aging probate cases. "We've assembled a team of experienced attorneys to help hear contested estate cases. By conducting more hearings, we can reach older cases sooner. We are thankful for the county's investment so that Fulton's families can quickly resolve matters associated with the death of loved ones," reported Judge Johnson.

Probate Court Hosts DA Youth Program



Judge Johnson recently addressed the bright scholars in the Junior District Attorney's Summer Youth Program. Participants toured Probate Court, learned about estate planning and discussed ways to end youth gun violence. The Junior DA Program is a summer youth program that exposes middle school students to the justice system with visits to civic leaders in law and government.

Let's CONNECT

Connect with us on social media to keep up with Fulton County Probate Court's updates, changes, and community events.



Fulton County Probate Court



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