

# KANAWHA COUNTY MENTAL HYGIENE COURT

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Attorneys Appointed to Guardian/Conservator Cases in Kanawha County**  
**FROM: Ginny Grottendieck and Ashlee Hunter**  
**Mental Hygiene Commissioners**  
**DATE: March 13, 2020**  
**RE: COVID-19**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic questions have arisen as to how to adequately represent protected persons and those alleged to be protected persons, particularly those who are residents in nursing homes and patients in hospitals. Specifically, it was noted that asking for a continuance may not be in the best interest of alleged protected persons as they may imminently need the protections afforded by a Guardian or Conservator as a result of this health crisis.

It is our recommendation that during this time you meet with your clients by video conferencing such as TeleHealth, FaceTime, or the equivalent. This should allow you to meet your responsibilities under W.Va. Code §44A-2-7. A social worker or other facility staff should be able to assist you in this endeavor, especially since the March 12, 2020, announcement that the Governor is asking all nursing homes to restrict visitors with exceptions for end-of-life or serious illness situations.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you can contact us at the Kanawha County Mental Hygiene Office or you can contact the Commissioner handling your case.