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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas 10th Judicial District Court to resume issuing marriage licenses

OLATHE—The Kansas Supreme Court announced today that its Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) worked with judicial districts to create a process that will allow some district courts to resume issuing marriage licenses while courts remain closed to in-person contact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have had to turn away applicants for marriage licenses because the law requires an in-person oath and the court counters are closed,” said Jennie Leach, Clerk of the Court. “The witnessing requirement caused significant stress on couples looking to get a marriage license. We regret having to turn away any couple during the pandemic. Fortunately, we have been able to partner with OJA to find a way to restore the marriage license process.”

New process starts Monday, April 20, 2020:

Kansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Marla Luckert said that 10 courts will issue marriage licenses using the new process, and they will begin accepting applications Monday. “This new process depends on phone, email, and U.S. mail to replace what previously was done in person in the clerk of court office,” Luckert said. “We encourage applicants to be patient with district staff who will be working to meet this need while continuing to operate at reduced staffing in compliance with public health recommendations.”

People who live in Johnson County are asked to **call 913-715-3428** to begin the marriage license process. We will receive applications by encrypted email or U.S. mail.

Marriage license paperwork requires the applicant to provide a photo identification that includes personally identifiable information, such as date of birth, Social Security Number, or driver’s license number. To protect this information, courts will begin an encrypted email exchange with the applicant through which the applicant will return completed paperwork. If an applicant does not have email, courts will also send and receive paperwork by U.S. mail.

Fulfilling the oath requirement

Marriage license applicants previously were required to appear in person in the clerk of court’s office to swear an oath that includes affirming the applicants:

- ... Are of lawful age to marry or have necessary consent to marry;
- ... Are not related in degrees prohibited by law; and
- ... Have no legal reason why they should not marry.

Under the new process, applicants will make this affirmation on paper.

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