

NEWSLETTER
CAMDEN COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT
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MESSAGE FROM SURROGATE JONES ~

I always enjoy the opportunity to speak to Camden County residents about the services provided by the Surrogate's Court. However, I am often asked ~

WHAT IS A SURROGATE?

In New Jersey, the Surrogate's function began in the early part of colonial history when the Church of England had the duty of probating wills. When the Bishops needed assistance in handling estates, they would appoint "Surrogates" to take their place. In 1844, the New Jersey Constitution prescribed that the Surrogate was to be an elected, independent constitutional officer in each county and was to be elected for a five-year term by the people of the county. Surrogates are the only elected Judges in New Jersey.

WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SURROGATE?

By virtue of the laws enacted since 1844 the Surrogates in New Jersey have two major functions. As Judge of the Surrogate's Court I review and probate Wills and qualify executors. I also establish administrations when a decedent does not have a Will and rule on guardians for minor children. In addition, the Surrogate's Court is the depository for funds awarded to minor children through "friendly settlements", inheritances or as beneficiaries of life insurance proceeds. The funds are deposited into the Surrogate's Intermingled Minors Fund and remain there until the minor reaches the age of 18.

As the Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Probate Part, the Surrogate

reviews and schedules all actions pertaining to contested wills, estate matters and the appointment of guardians for incapacitated persons.

The Surrogate Judge also serves as Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Family Part for adoptions. The Surrogate is responsible for reviewing all paperwork filed for an adoption procedure.

WHAT IS PROBATE?

Probate is the legal process that establishes the genuineness of a Will. It is done by the Surrogate in the county where the decedent resided at the time of death.

If you have any questions related to the work of the Surrogate's Court please do not hesitate to call my office.

SENIOR LEGAL WORKSHOPS ~

If you are a Camden County resident age 60 and over or disabled you can acquire, at no cost, a Last Will and Testament, an Advance Directive for Health Care (Living Will), and a Power of Attorney. To check available times and to register please call 856-566-2920.

DID YOU KNOW?

•Free "Living Will" Kits in English and Spanish are always available. Just call our office at 856-225-7282 and we will mail one to you.



Making It Better, Together.

CAMDEN COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT

HOURS OF OPERATION AT CAMDEN CITY LOCATION

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 9 AM – 4 PM

The Surrogate's Court will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day

SATELLITE SERVICES

For the convenience of our clients a satellite office is located at the Camden County Store in the Mall at Voorhees Town Center where business is conducted by appointment only

~ To make an appointment please call 856-225-7282 ~