SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 18-03

Amending Administrative Orders 04-06, 13-15, and 16-16 (Addressing Fee Petition Certifications in Probate Cases)

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 04-06 requires Probate Fiduciary Panel attorneys and pro se fiduciaries, when filing a petition or request for compensation, to certify: "[I]n cases in which I am a fiduciary, other than petitions or requests for compensation to me, I have filed all reports, verifications of notice, accounts and subsequent requirements due as of the date of this petition or request"; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Order 16-16 clarifies that the date of certification is the date the petition or request for compensation is eFiled with the court; and

WHEREAS, it has become apparent that in a limited number of instances an attorney or pro se fiduciary who is otherwise eligible to file a petition or request for compensation is unable to make the required certification due to reasons that are beyond his/her control and that do not include the press of business; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote timely compliance of required filings and avoidance of delinquencies, the Office of the Register of Wills should be authorized to issue advance delinquency notices to inform attorneys and pro se fiduciaries when a filing deadline is imminent, rather than issue a delinquency notice after the deadline has passed;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that subsection (a)(2)(B) of Probate Efiling Procedure 8 of Administrative Order 13-15, *Petition for Compensation or Fees eFiled by Attorney*, is amended to read as follows:

- (B) in cases in which I am a fiduciary, other than petitions or requests for compensation to me, I have:
 - (i) identified by name and case number each case in which all reports, verifications of notice, accounts, and subsequent requirements due as of the date of this petition or request have not been filed, and filed a motion to extend the deadline for the filing that contains an explanation demonstrating good cause for the delay, but the court has not yet acted on this request as of the date of this petition or request, and
 - (ii) filed all reports, verifications of notice, accounts, and subsequent requirements due as of the date of this petition or request in all other cases in which I serve as a fiduciary, and

ORDERED, that subsection (b)(2)(B) of Probate Efiling Procedure 8 of Administrative Order 13-15, *Petition for Compensation or Fees eFiled by Lay Fiduciary*, is amended to read as follows:

- (B) in cases in which I am a fiduciary, other than petitions or requests for compensation to me, I have:
 - (i) identified by name and case number each case in which all reports, verifications of notice, accounts, and subsequent requirements due as of the date of this petition or request have not been filed, and filed a motion to extend the deadline for the filing that contains an explanation demonstrating good cause for the delay, but the court has not yet acted on this request as of the date of this petition or request, and
 - (ii) filed all reports, verifications of notice, accounts, and subsequent requirements due as of the date of this petition or request in all other cases in which I serve as a fiduciary.

ORDERED, that the Office of the Register of Wills is authorized to issue advance notices of delinquency to inform attorneys and pro se fiduciaries when a filing deadline is imminent, rather than a delinquency notice that the delinquency has already occurred.

ORDERED, that this order shall take effect immediately.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: April 5, 2018

Robert E. Morin Chief Judge

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