

ERIE COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT INFORMATION FOR GENEALOGISTS

Erie County Surrogate's Court is located at 92 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York 14202; phone number 716-845-2560. It is open to the public Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

WHAT KINDS OF RECORDS ARE AVAILABLE?

- Wills of deceased persons and trust documents.
- Petitions for probate, administration, judicial settlement, and guardianship. (Although the court does maintain adoption records, they are sealed by New York State law and not available without court order.)
- Miscellaneous documents in connection with estates, some trusts and guardianships.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHETHER THE COURT HAS RECORDS OF INTEREST TO ME?

- The court maintains a data base of all of its estate records in its Record Room, 92 Franklin Street. It is a searchable index and available to the public.
- Records of guardianships are maintained in a separate data base. Please email balessi@courts.state.ny.us or call 716-845-2562 for more information about guardianship records.
- Information can be obtained by writing the court at the above address. There is a \$90.00 fee to search for records over 25 years old and a \$30.00 fee to search for records under 25 years old. The court does not accept personal checks. Money orders or bank checks should be made payable to "Erie County Surrogate's Court." Payment may also be made by cash, MasterCard or Visa. Please contact the court's main desk, at 716-845-2599 for more information regarding credit card use.
- Requests for information regarding estate records can also be emailed to rmoulton@courts.state.ny.us or adunn@courts.state.ny.us.

HOW CAN I VIEW RECORDS?

- At the present time, estate records from 1973 - present are available for viewing in the court's Record Room, 92 Franklin Street. No appointment is necessary to view these records.
- Estate records older than 1973 are stored off-site. These records will be returned to the court, upon request, for viewing. Arrangements should be made ahead of time to view these records by calling 716-845-2585. Please allow several days for the retrieval of these records.
- Guardianship records may be viewed by individuals at the discretion of the court. Please call 716-845-2562 for more information.
- The court's records are not available on-line at present.

HOW CAN I GET COPIES OF RECORDS?

- Photocopies of records are available in one of two ways. There is a public access photocopier in the court's Record Room, which charges \$.25 per page and takes change and \$1.00 and \$5.00 bills; it does not accept credit cards. Copies may be made by individuals using this photocopier.

- Photocopies may also be requested from the court. The charge is \$.25 per page; payment must be made before copies will be provided by money order or bank check payable to “Erie County Surrogate’s Court.” Payment can also be made by cash, MasterCard or Visa; please contact the court’s main desk, at 716-845-2599 for more information about credit card use.