



**COVID-19  
DOEA EMERGENCY ORDER 20-01 REVISED  
(PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-52)**

**WHEREAS**, Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and presents with symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath; and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 26th, 2020, numerous counties in Florida have positive cases for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Florida, Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order No. 20-52 declaring that a state of emergency exists in Florida and providing that “[e]ach State agency may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency”; and

**WHEREAS**, for public guardians, section 744.2103(6), Florida Statutes (F.S.) states in part that “[a] public guardian shall ensure that each of the guardian’s wards is personally visited by the public guardian or by one of the guardian’s professional staff at least once each calendar quarter;” and

**WHEREAS**, for professional guardians, section 744.361(14), F.S., states that “[a] professional guardian must ensure that each of the guardian’s wards is personally visited by the guardian or one of the guardian’s professional staff at least once each calendar quarter.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICHARD PRUDOM**, Secretary of Florida’s Department of Elder Affairs, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 20-52, and upon Order of the State Coordinating Officer, find the timely

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execution of the necessary actions, mitigation, response, and recovery aspects of the State's emergency management plan, as it relates to COVID-19, is prevented, hindered, or delayed by the application of certain regulatory statutes, rules and orders related to the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA).

**Wherefore, I ORDER** the following:

1. Where the professional or public guardians' ward is residing in a nursing home, adult living facility or other enumerated facility in which Division of Emergency Management (DEM) Order No. 20-006 limits access to the residents of the facility, the requirement of a personal visit to the ward set forth in sections 744.2103(6) and 744.361(14), Fla. Stat., is suspended where COVID-19 response and mitigation measures prevent such visits. Guardians must make contact through video conference, telephone, or other means to monitor the ward.
2. After expiration of the State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 20-52, and any extension, the public or professional guardian will have no more than thirty (30) days to conduct an in-person face to face meeting with their ward who has been residing in an enumerated facility for which they have not already completed the required in-person face to face meeting.

This order shall expire on the expiration, to include any extensions, or rescission of Executive Order No. 20-52.

Executed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2020.



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Richard M. Prudom  
Secretary  
Department of Elder Affairs  
State of Florida