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CHIEF JUDGE

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
KENT COUNTY PROBATE COURT

News Release
Kent County Probate Court
Grand Rapids, MI – January 4, 2021

***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

The Kent County Probate Court today urged the public to make sure that family members in nursing homes who are not able to give consent to be vaccinated have taken the appropriate legal steps to give consent. For example, if an incapacitated individual does not have a patient advocate or guardian to act on their behalf, a family member may want to file a petition with the court to appoint a temporary guardian.

“While many residents of nursing homes and family members have already taken the necessary legal steps to allow for important medical decisions to be made on their behalf, the court wants to make sure that there are no delays in vaccinating vulnerable populations,” said Chief Probate Judge David M. Murkowski. “Family members have an obligation to waste no time in making sure that the proper steps have been taken to make sure their incapacitated loved ones can be vaccinated.”

The court also asks local nursing homes to inventory patient records in order to determine which patients require third party consent and to make sure the information is up to date. In addition, the court said it plans to make every effort to act on petitions as quickly as possible. For additional information, contact probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov.

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