



BERGEN COUNTY SURROGATE COURT SATELLITE OFFICE **AUTHORIZED IN OAKLAND**

[OAKLAND] Bergen County Surrogate Michael R. Dressler, Oakland Mayor Linda H. Schwager and Councilman John Biale agreed without hesitation that it was time to establish a Surrogate's Court satellite location in the northwestern region of Bergen County at the Oakland Senior Center, which is located at 20 Lawlor Drive, Oakland, NJ 07436.

“We, in Oakland, are excited to become a Bergen County Surrogate Court's Satellite Office,” said Mayor Schwager. “This will certainly help the many residents who live in northwest Bergen County.”

At the meeting where the three came to the decision, Dressler spoke to members of the public about the importance of wills, probate procedures, administration of estates, estate tax consequences, powers of attorney, medical directives and guardianships that should be explored and discussed. This is an annual program that has reached tens of thousands of residents over the past twenty years and is still going strong. As a part of the program, the Surrogate hands out copies of a booklet on “How to probate a Last Will & Testament in the Bergen County Surrogate's Court,” and informs residents of important programs such as the satellite location program.

“As a means of bringing government to the people, in 1999 I initiated Bergen County's first Satellite Surrogate's Office program which is operated without additional taxpayer cost,” said Surrogate Dressler. “The goal of the satellite office program has always been to bring our communities together, to make the services of the Surrogate's Court more efficient, effective and accessible to our residents.”

In order to meet a probate clerk at a satellite location, a resident of Bergen County must **first** contact the Bergen County Surrogate's Court at (201) 646-2252. **Only then** will they be able to schedule an appointment to meet a probate clerk at one of twelve satellite locations.

Motion for Resolution 16-199 on the matter was made by Councilman John Biale; it was adopted unanimously by the Mayor and Council of Oakland on October 10, 2016 authorizing the Surrogate's Court the use of the Oakland Senior Center as a satellite location of the Surrogate's Court.

“We in Oakland are proud to host the Surrogate's Court satellite location at our Senior Center,” said Councilman Biale. “It will be a nice addition to the other services that we already provide at the center.”

The closest satellite location in geographic proximity to the Oakland Senior Center is in Fair Lawn, over ten miles away. The Oakland Senior Center is over seventeen miles from the Surrogate's Court in Hackensack, making it the furthest one from the court.

“I am thankful for this opportunity,” said Surrogate Dressler. “The citizens of Oakland are fortunate to have such dedicated and caring leaders as Mayor Schwager and Councilman Biale.”

For more information on the Bergen County Surrogate's Court Satellite Office Program, call (201) 646-2252, or visit the website www.bergencountysurrogate.com - where all of the satellite locations are listed and all updated booklets on “How to Probate a Last Will & Testament in the Bergen County Surrogate's Court” are available for download in PDF format.