

-----NEWS RELEASE-----
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Chippewa County Probate Court
Urges the Public to Prepare for
Vaccination of Incapacitated Family Members**

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. January 1, 2021 – The Chippewa County Probate Court is urging the public to take necessary steps to protect family members in nursing homes. Generally, incapacitated individuals are not able to give consent to be vaccinated, so family members may need to take appropriate legal steps so that valid consent can be given for the COVID-19 vaccine. 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 petition the court to appoint a temporary guardian.

“While many residents of nursing homes and family members have already taken the required 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 Probate Judge Eric Blubaugh. “

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.

Judge Blubaugh said that the court will make every effort to make these petitions for temporary guardianship a priority.

Blank copies of the any needed forms can be obtained by calling the Chippewa County Probate Court at (906) 635-6314.

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For additional information:

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