

PENNSYLVANIA PROBATE DEADLINES & TIMELINES

TYPE OF FILING	DEADLINES	Authority
Notice of estate administration	Within 3 months after grant of letters	Pa. O.C. Rule 10.5(a)
Certification of notice	Within 10 days after giving notice of estate administration	Pa. O.C. Rule 10.5(d)
Service of citation to obtain jurisdiction of person	Within 6 months of order awarding citation, when no other time is specially fixed; must be served at least 20 days before responsive pleading due, in same manner as service of original process (if not to obtain original jurisdiction, serve by mail)	20 Pa. C.S. §765 / Pa. O.C. Rule 3.5(3)-(4)
Filing and service of responsive pleading to citation or petition initiating proceeding	Within 20 days of date of notice or filing, whichever later (party residing out of country has 60 days); or on or before date certain in citation	Pa. O.C. Rule 3.7(a) / 20 Pa. C.S. §764
Filing of responsive pleadings to subsequent pleadings	Within 20 days after service of the preceding pleading	Pa. O.C. Rule 3.7(d)
Amended pleading after preliminary objections	Within 20 days after service of preliminary objections without consent of other parties and without leave of court	Pa. O.C. Rule 3.9(d)(1)
Answer after preliminary objections overruled	Within 20 days of order overruling preliminary objections	Pa. O.C. Rule 3.9(e)(1)
Amended petition	Within 20 days after entry of order concerning such amended petition	Pa. O.C. Rule 3.9(e)(2)
Demand for trial by jury	At least 10 days prior to the initial hearing before the orphans' court division; if initial hearing dispensed with, at least 10 days prior to trial	20 Pa. C.S. §777(d)
Filing of caveat bond	Within 10 days after filing of petition for probate or grant of letters, or after filing of caveat, whichever is later	20 Pa. C.S. §906(a)
Challenge to probate of will	Appeal within 1 year of decree; court may limit time to 3 months upon petition of party in interest	20 Pa. C.S. §908(a)
Appeal bond	Within 10 days of final applicable order	20 Pa. C.S. §908(b)
Spouse's election to take or not take elective share	Before expiration of 6 months after decedent's death or before expiration of 6 months after date of probate, whichever is later	20 Pa. C.S. §2210(b)
Petition for extension of time to take election	Prior to expiration of 6 months as provided in 20 Pa. C.S. §2210	Pa. O.C. Rule 5.4(b)
Proceeding to interpret formula clause for federal tax purposes	Within 12 months following death of decedent	20 Pa. C.S. §2803(b)

TYPE OF FILING	DEADLINES	Authority
Payment of life insurance payable to estate less than \$11,000	After 60 days following death, insurance company may pay all or part of that amount to spouse, child, parent, or sibling if no written claim received	20 Pa. C.S. §3101(d)
Petition to revoke distribution decree – small estate	Within 1 year after decree of distribution made	20 Pa. C.S. §3102
Opening of probate record to receive proof of later will or codicil	If later will submitted within 3 months of testator’s death but after register probated earlier instrument, with at least 10 days’ notice to petitioner who presented probated instrument	20 Pa. C.S. §3138
Granting of letters	Not after expiration of 21 years from decedent’s death, unless cause shown	20 Pa. C.S. §3152
Issuance of letters to principal creditors, other fit persons, or redevelopment authority	Not until 30 days after decedent’s death	20 Pa. C.S. §3155(c)
Inventory	No later than date account filed or due date for filing of inheritance tax return, whichever is earlier; if filing requested on earlier date, within 3 months after appointment of personal representative or within 30 days after request, whichever is later	20 Pa. C.S. §3301(c)
Supplemental Inventory	Within 30 days of discovery of additional property	20 Pa. C.S. §3303
Notice of continuation of business	Within 5 days after order authorizing personal representative to continue any business of estate for benefit of estate, if prior notice not given	20 Pa. C.S. §3314
Notice of devise or bequest to corporation or association	Within 3 months after grant of letters	20 Pa. C.S. §3330
Deadline to appoint personal representative after suggestion of death	Within 1 year after suggestion of death filed	20 Pa. C.S. §3375
Limitations against debt due estate	Until end of 1 year following decedent’s death	20 Pa. C.S. §3376
Judgments which are liens at death	Bind real estate for 5 years from inception or last revival of lien or for 1 year from decedent’s death	20 Pa. C.S. §3382
Statute of limitations for claims not barred at death	Not barred until expiration of 1 year after death	20 Pa. C.S. §3383
Notice after settlor of revocable trust has died	No later than 30 days after date on which trustee learns personal representative has been appointed	20 Pa. C.S. §3384.1
Limitation upon claims	Claims against decedent unenforceable after 1 year from death against bona fide grantee or holder	20 Pa. C.S. §3385
Notice to Commonwealth and political subdivisions with claim for maintaining decedent	Within 3 months after grant of letters	20 Pa. C.S. §3393

TYPE OF FILING	DEADLINES	Authority
Accounting	Any time after 4 months from first complete advertisement of original grant of letters; may be cited to file any time after expiration of 6 months from first advertisement	20 Pa. C.S. §3501
Petition to review final confirmation of account	Within 5 years after final confirmation	20 Pa. C.S. §3521
Petition with annexed account – Estates not exceeding \$50,000	After expiration of 1 year from date of first complete advertisement of the grant of letters	20 Pa. C.S. §3531
Rights of claimants against personal representative and distributed property	If claim known within 1 year after first complete advertisement of grant of letters; with respect to real property, if notice filed within 1 year of death – claim expires at end of 5 years after death	20 Pa. C.S. §3532
Notice of claim	Within 60 days of mailing or delivery of demand to make claim or within 1 year from first complete advertisement of grant of letters, whichever is later	20 Pa. C.S. §3532(b.1)
Petition to establish title to real estate	1 year after death if no letters have been granted; or within 6 years of death if personal representative has been appointed but has not filed account	20 Pa. C.S. §3546
Custodian compliance with request regarding digital assets	Not later than 60 days after receipt of information required under Digital Assets act	20 Pa. C.S. §3916
Application for order directing custodian compliance	After 60 days has passed with no compliance from custodian	20 Pa. C.S. §3916
Powers of foreign fiduciary	Not exercisable in Commonwealth for 1 month after decedent’s death	20 Pa. C.S. §4101
Presumption of death from absence	7 years after last heard of (if exposure to specific peril, less than 7 years upon sufficient finding)	20 Pa. C.S. §5701(b)-(c)
Appointment of trustee for absentee	After 1 year of absence	20 Pa. C.S. §5702
Notice of account filing	Mailed at least 20 days prior to audit in counties with Orphans’ Court Division or 20 days prior to date objection must be filed in all other counties	Pa. O.C. Rule 2.5(d)
Answers to objections, preliminary objections to objections, and answers to preliminary objections	Within 20 days after service of applicable preceding pleading	Pa. O.C. Rule 2.8(c)
Notice to Attorney General – charitable interest	At least 20 days in advance of proceeding involving or affecting charitable interest	Pa. O.C. Rule 4.4(a)
Filing of original document	Within 14 days of service of notice to file original	Pa. O.C. Rule 4.7(b)
Auditor or Master report	Within 90 days after appointment	Pa. O.C. Rule 9.2
Status Report by Personal Representative	If administration not completed within 2 years of decedent’s death, file status report at that time, and annually thereafter	Pa. O.C. Rule 10.6