

Ten Tips (not necessarily the top) I have learned that make probate judging easier and more efficient.

**By Larry Belskis
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1. Use Case Plan
 - Case Plan Worksheet (attached)
 - Local Rule 78.1 (attached)
2. Use the internet
 - Information
 - Forms
 - Rules
 - Dockets
 - Instructions
3. Video Conferencing
 - Testimony: Doctors for hospital
4. Networking
 - With other Judges
 - Probate Law & Procedure Committee
 - State Probate Judges Association
5. Networking
 - (A) With Lawyers
 - Probate Court Committee
 - Local Bar Association
 - State Bar Association
 - ACTEC
 - (B) With Legislators
 - Know your local legislators
 - Offer to educate and advise
 - Can initiate and/or respond

6. Local Rules
 - Your philosophy and guidelines
 - Attorneys and public know what to expect
7. Law Students as Law Clerks
8. Communicate with staff
 - Weekly magistrate meeting
 - Quarterly staff meeting
9. Review mail with dictating machine in hand
10. Make decisions and move on – use deadlines

PROBATE COURT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY
LAWRENCE A. BELSKIS, JUDGE

STATUS CONFERENCE CASE PLAN

CASE NAME

Case # _____

DATE

Initial disclosure of Witnesses

Final disclosure of Lay Witnesses

Final disclosure of Expert Witnesses

Discovery shall be completed

Final Date to file Motions for Summary Judgment

*Final motions shall be submitted,
Exhibits exchanged between parties*

*Pretrial in conformity with Loc. R. 78.1(F),
Submit proposed exhibits to the court,
Submit any objections to proposed exhibits*

Trial – continuing daily until concluded
