

COVID-19 UPDATE – March 28, 2020

DUKE LAW, LLC remains committed to the physical and mental wellbeing of our employees, clients and community. Law firms and title companies have been deemed essential services in Maryland. We are continuing to work but are adjusting our work practices to keep us – and you – safe and healthy.

REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS: Effective immediately, we will be conducting closings remotely whenever possible. For parties signing documents at a physical settlement, we will hold those in our Chestertown office. We are limiting participation to **PARTIES ONLY**. No bankers, real estate agents or non-signing parties will be allowed to attend. We apologize for this inconvenience but believe limiting the number of attendees will help reduce everyone's risk. We will be implementing distancing techniques during closings, as well. Our email is: closing@dukelaw.org.

WILL SIGNINGS: We will be sending completed documents to clients for signing, rather than holding signings in our office. Under Maryland law, a will must be signed in front of two witnesses to be valid. We will work with our clients to ensure they have two people capable of signing. If time is not a factor, we will postpone in-office will signings until further notice.

CLIENT MEETINGS: All client meetings will be held by telephone until further notice. Call 410-778-2828 or 410-758-9841. We are always reachable by email, as well: pduke@dukelaw.org for Pamela Duke, bmahoney@dukelaw.org for Bridget Mahoney, and mdearriz@dukelaw.org for Misty DeArriz.

COURT HEARINGS: **As of March 25, 2020**, all Maryland courthouses have been closed to the public for anything other than emergency hearings. All hearings between March 25, 2020 and **May 1, 2020** have been postponed. We will notify you as soon as your hearing has been rescheduled. Domestic Violence Protective Order hearings, Bail Reviews and other emergency hearings are still being held. If you have an emergency, please call us!

DELIVERIES/FILES: DUKE LAW Offices in Chestertown and Centreville are both equipped with mail slots. Please alert us to your delivery. Do not leave any time sensitive paperwork in a mail slot without notifying us.

“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times,
if one only remembers to turn on the light.” – Albus Dumbledore