

March 26, 2020



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Client Alert – Trusts, Estates, & Elder Law

Provision of Essential Legal Services – End of Life Directives

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has raised immediate concerns for people of all ages regarding plans for surrogate healthcare decision-making, advanced directives for end-of-life care, and estate planning to ensure adequate protection of assets. Buncombe County recently issued a “Stay at Home” order for county residents, effective Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 8:00PM through April 9, 2020 at 6:00AM requiring residents to stay in their places of residence. However, individuals may leave their residences and travel throughout the County in order to access, among other things, certain “Essential Services.” **One service expressly permitted by the Order is “legal services ... necessary to assist in ... end of life directives.”**

The Van Winkle Law Firm has devised a strategy to ensure continued access to critical legal services during this uncertain time. Van Winkle will continue to offer to **new** and **existing** clients the following services:

- Phone or email response to all inquiries and requests for legal services within 24 hours.
- Personal meetings by telephone or video conference to discuss critical concerns and plans to protect you and your family.
- Expedited preparation of incapacity and estate planning documents, including Healthcare Powers of Attorney, General Powers of Attorney, Advanced Directives, Wills, Trusts, and any other necessary documents to ensure you and your assets are protected.
- Drive-Up (“Parking Lot”) Service for signing and execution of critical documents at our Asheville and Hendersonville locations in a manner consistent with Social Distancing requirements and optimal health and safety for all participants.

This Client Alert does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice; instead, all information and content is for general informational purposes only. The COVID-19 situation is fluid and changing rapidly, and the information contained herein may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information.

Please contact one of the attorneys listed below to obtain advice with respect to your estate and healthcare planning needs. No reader of this Client Alert should act or refrain from acting based on information contained herein without first seeking legal advice. Only your individual attorney can provide assurances the information contained herein – and your interpretation of it – is applicable or appropriate to your situation. Possession of, use of, and access to, this Client Alert does not, in and of itself, create an attorney-client relationship between the reader and the authors or the Van Winkle Law Firm.

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