



The Weeks Quarterly©

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To those who celebrate, greetings for your good spiritual, mental, and in this challenging time of whose face mask is more creative than whose, physical health! Collectively may we take a breath to enjoy Pesach or Happy Easter or, if your holiday is not yet upon us, just a weekend in the sun!

There are so many headlines in these weeks, that this issue of The Weeks Quarterly© will hope to provide a window into some court operations and legal matters of import.

Presiding Judges' Town Halls

Through the generosity of the Maricopa County Bar Association, attorneys today were able to log onto a transmission for the first in a series of hosted informational meetings. The season of town halls kicked off today with the interactive presentation of the Probate Department's Presiding Judge and an assembled team of key court staff. This law office is registered for the upcoming criminal and family department town halls, as well.

What's New in Court Ops

The Courts all have restrictions, pursuant to the Arizona Supreme Court administrative orders that have entered and in keeping with the Governor's and President's orders. While the stay-at-home discussion is well familiar to us all, the courts continue in operation with employees working from home, sharing days at the office, logging on and handling court operations remotely, and so forth.

Essential Services

The Law Office of Debbie Weeks Remains Fully Operational.

The Governor's orders define legal services as "essential." This is a correct statement because people may need to help loved ones or themselves with documents, court filings, and otherwise.

For those who are asking, how might we remain operational to handle a client's important matters in family law, guardianship and conservatorship arenas, decedent estate matters, and protective orders, as well as non-court matters such as powers of attorney?



With technology at our finger tips, we are mindful always of cyber security and other remote-usage risks. With such precautions in mind, some of us offer limited representation when ethically appropriate in addition to full or traditional representation. For clients today, law practices such as this author's are able to arrange telephonic conferences providing legal information and analysis and mapping out a game plan. For others, limited court appearances are still possible. Today's town hall team advised as to different filing provisions, accessing judicial officers and staffs during the court access restrictions, general guidance for implementation by attorneys, and so forth. The Courts are issuing orders and facilitating appearances using an "all hands on deck" approach to wise allocation of resources.

Remote Online Notarization --- EFFECTIVE TODAY
Governor's Executive Order: 2020-26

Until the past days, new legislation was pending to permit electronic notarizations. In part: "A. Notarial commissions, duties and acts as prescribed by this article may be performed electronically. B. A notary public may accept documents signed with an electronic signature. C. On or before December 31, 2019, the secretary of state shall adopt rules that establish standards for secure and feasible implementation of electronic notarization." A.R.S. 41-352. On July 1st, however, -373 was to take effect: "A notary public who is physically located in this state and who is authorized to perform remote online notarizations by the secretary of state may perform a notarial act by means of communication technology for a remotely located individual,.." (with details that followed). Due to the Covid-19 circumstance, however, the Governor ordered acceleration of this authority.

Keeping Vulnerable Residents Connected
Governor's Executive Order: 2020-22

The Governor's April 8th Executive Orders require certain accommodations to our vulnerable adult populations in assisted living and similar facilities, address surveillance of health data, and more.

Here's a link for your "down-time" reading:
<https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>

WISHING YOU GOOD HEALTH and a joyous holiday weekend,
Attorney Debbie Weeks.

