

BRANN & ISAACSON
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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To our clients and other friends, we hope you are taking care and following recommended precautions during these unprecedented times.

Brann & Isaacson is open for business, albeit virtually. We are on-line during normal business hours and can be reached by calling our office telephone. Calls to me at the office will ring through to my cell phone, but feel free to call my cell directly (207) 754-3562. As a result of careful planning, all employees are using firm laptops to securely connect to our firm's computer system including our electronic files and databases. I am meeting with clients virtually using Google Duo, Zoom or telephone. A staff member is opening our mail and emailing it to us.

Because concern about the potential health impact of the coronavirus on loved ones is top of mind, I wanted to take this opportunity to make sure that you are aware of certain legal issues concerning health care planning.

Advance Directives for Health Care, Living Wills, Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, health care proxies and other health care related documents are crucial to review under current circumstances for several reasons:

- Have you looked at your Advance Directive recently to make sure that it continues to reflect your current thinking? If not, it would be prudent to do so.
- Health care related documents which address preferences regarding intubation or DNR orders might need to be revised. Because COVID-19 is a lower respiratory tract infection, it is possible that one would need to be intubated to survive. Specification of intubation for this reason is important because standard DNR orders provided by medical professionals generally prohibit intubation. Serious consideration of amending DNRs is warranted.
- It may not be possible for one's Agent to be physically present for decision making due to quarantines. You may want to add a sentence to your existing Advance Directive authorizing consultation with your Agent via video conference, telephone or email and holding harmless medical professionals for relying on such forms of communication.

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Recommended strategy:

- If you do have an Advance Directive, review it to make sure it reflects your current wishes. Please let me know if you would like us to send you copies of your signed Advance Directives via an encrypted email.
- If you do not have an Advance Directive for Health Care in place, or your current Advance Directive no longer reflects your current wishes, you can download the Maine form online and complete it: <https://mainehealth.org/-/media/mainehealth/pdfs/advance-directives/mhs-advancedirective-booklet-rev-8-3844.pdf>. If you do not live in Maine, you will find your state's form on line by googling "Advance Directive for Health Care" and the name of your state. If you need assistance in completing the form, I and my staff are of course available to assist you.
- If you do decide to execute a new Advance Directive and are able to do so, please provide me with a copy for our files.

Finally, and most importantly, remember the importance of family connectedness, including assisting older or infirm family members. Advise your adult children and parents to execute an Advance Directive for Health Care that reflects their preferences.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do to help you with your legal planning. We are set up to revise or draft documents just as we would if we were physically in our office. If you would like to send me a document but don't have a scanner, I recommend the use of the free app "Digiset LLC", available at the app store. This app will convert pictures to pdfs for easy transmission using text or email. You can then upload your documents securely through ShareFile at the link provided in my email.

We hope that you and your family stay safe and healthy. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to advise or assist.

Take care,

BRANN & ISAACSON



Martha E. Greene