

ARDITO & ARDITO

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Spring 2020

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Inside this issue:

COVID-19 Information for Clients	2
Estate and Asset Planning	3
Our thank you: COVID-19 Good "Will" Drive	4

Need legal advice?
Mention this newsletter
to receive a free half hour
consultation.

"There would be no rainbow without sunshine and rain."
- Roy Bennett

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WE PROVIDE THE SERVICE YOU GET THE RESULTS

Ardito & Ardito Attorneys at Law is an experienced full service law firm established specifically to provide professional, personal and effective legal services to our clients.



COVID-19 UPDATE

All of us at Ardito & Ardito hope that you, your family, loved ones, friends and co-workers are all safe during these unprecedented times; and that you are finding a way to cope with the new "normal" as our lives have been transformed in a way we never could have imagined.

Although the end of this crisis may not be in sight, we must all do our best to remain positive and continue to cautiously assist those in need, such as the elderly or persons with underlying conditions, as well as taking the threat from this illness very seriously for ourselves and others by complying with all recommended safety measures.

We would like you to know that our office remains functional and we continue to serve our clients as their needs arise in the midst of this pandemic by reviewing and updating existing estate planning documents, or assisting with creating planning documents for the first time.

The state and federal governments have implemented certain acts and mandates to provide some relief to those affected such as:

FEDERAL

CARES Act enacted by the Federal government, which includes \$2+ trillion economic stimulus plan provides needed assistance to businesses and individuals. Checks to individuals based on income limits will be sent, SBA loans with favorable terms are available to small businesses & unemployment benefits have been enhanced.

STATE

NYS has temporarily suspended eviction actions for residential and commercial tenants; there is a 90 day suspension of foreclosures as well as mortgage payment relief based on hardship. Proposals have been made for suspending rent payment for tenants & for landlords to be given temporary relief by not having to make mortgage payments; however, none of such proposals were in place at the time of writing this article.

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS

Ardito & Ardito continues to assist clients with COVID-19 related issues in the following practice areas:

ESTATE PLANNING

We are amending existing estate plans for clients and preparing new plans for those who did not have one in place prior to the crisis arising. We are also discussing what is contained in existing plans to see what needs to be revised or enhanced.

PERSONAL INJURY

Deadlines for filing no-fault claims relating to automobile accidents have <u>not</u> been extended as of the time of writing this article so strict deadlines must be paid attention to & complied with. Our clients contact us requesting guidance on how to continue treatment as doctors are not allowing office visits; and we recommend contacting your healthcare provider via regular call to their office or via telemedicine for remote treatment options.

Probate and Administration of Estates:

Although Surrogates Courts, which have jurisdiction over estate matters are predominantly closed, we continue to prepare petitions and other necessary documents; and file online what may still be received in queue for when operations resume. We also assist clients with questions during times of loss which unfortunately arise.

Ongoing Treatment and Care for Injuries

If you were receiving treatment for accident related injuries prior to the NY on Pause, it is likely you will be unable to continue to receive treatment.

Reach out to your health care provider for recommendations/instructions for a home regimen and exercises.

CORPORATION/LLC & BUSINESS LAW

Our clients are raising questions as to potential sources for relief during this crisis and we are directing them to the SBA loan program through the CARES Act which is now available. We also recommend the filing of insurance claims for loss of rent or business interruptions caused by the virus, which may not be a covered event. However, a claim should still be filed with your carrier; keep in mind that failing to do so would result in a quick denial for failure to notify the insurance company.

ESTATE & ASSET PLANNING

R ESTATE PLAN WHAT MAKES UP AN ESTATE PLAN?

In today's climate, it is more important than ever to create a comprehensive estate plan or update an existing one in order to achieve peace of mind and address your current life situation.

Here is an overview of essential estate planning documents:

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

A legal document stating a person's wishes to have their estate assets distributed once the individual is deceased and designates an executor to manage the estate until final distributions are made.

HEALTH CARE PROXY

An advance medical directive in the form of a legal document that designates another person (a proxy) to legally make healthcare decisions on behalf of the person when he or she is incapable of making their wishes

LIVING WILL

(also known as an Advance Healthcare Directive)

A legal document that states ones wishes regarding end of life issues such as life support in which a person specifies what actions should be taken for their health if they are no longer able to make decisions for themselves due to illness or incapacity.

<u>iving Trust vs. Last</u> Will & Testament

You may be thinking to yourself, what is the difference between a Last Will and Testament and a Living Trust? Both Living Trusts and Wills serve to transfer property upon your • Some trusts can protect assets passing.

However, they are significantly different.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

A written authorization that allows a person to appoint another individual or organization to represent or act on another's behalf in private affairs, business or other legal matters as determined by the "powers" given under the document.

WILL SUBSTITUTES

A will substitute is a legal mechanism that allows a person to transfer property upon death to a beneficiary without undergoing a court proceeding such as probate.

ADVANTAGES:

Avoid Probate Process Easier to Amend Usually revocable until death

DISADVANTAGES:

Not as flexible as Trusts or Wills to provide for minors or those with special needs or disabilities



Contact us for a free telephone or video consultation

to create/review your estate plan.

TRUSTS

- Avoid Probate Process
- Maintain privacy after death
 - Name a trustee
- Requires transfer of assets to fund trust during lifetime
 - Protection from court challenges

WILLS

- Name guardians for minor children and appoint trustees to manage assets
 - Designate an executor
- Distributes assets after death
- Requires Probate process
- Becomes a public record upon filing probate

HOW DOES A TRUST WORK?

Person who makes a trust and puts assets

Person who holds and manages the assets and controls the trust

The people who will receive the assets or income of the trust

ARDITO & ARDITO COVID-19 Good "WILL" Drive



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GIVING THANKS TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

ALL SERVICES PERFORMED REMOTELY

Friends,

We would like to thank all of the amazing people who have been working endlessly each day to get us through these uncertain times and putting themselves at risk while assisting others. Thank you for your selfless acts of kindness and treating those in need! We pray for your safety and extend our well wishes to you and your families.

If you are or someone you know is a nurse, doctor, NP or PA in New York who wishes to have a simple Last Will and Testament or Health Care Proxy prepared, please contact us. We will assist them and at no cost.

All services will be provided remotely via tele, email and video apps.

Our services will be free of charge as our way of saying "Thank You" to those on the front lines working day and night to save lives & to protect all of us.

Thank You!

Healthcare Professionals Law Enforcement and Public Safety Food and Agriculture Workers Transportation Workers Public Health Workers First Responders Energy Employees and others

SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY



WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATE PLANNING
REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS &
LEASE NEGOTIATIONS



