

Governor's Order Permits Remote Execution of Wills

The Covid-19/Coronavirus pandemic has made a lot of clients realize they should not have put off revising their wills. Even if a person is not currently ill, having an up-to-date will provides some peace of mind against the worst case scenario. Under normal circumstances, will execution requires that the testator and the witnesses must all be present together at the same time and place and the witnesses must see the testator sign the will in person. In this time of social distancing, that could present a problem.

Recognizing the concerns about not being able to execute wills during a time when it may be needed most, Governor Pritzker issued an executive order that permits wills to be signed by means of a video and audio conference during which the testator and the witnesses can all see and hear one another. There are strict requirements for how the procedure must be conducted, but they are simple enough to adhere to. If you have been putting off signing your will, and have become concerned about whether you can do so at this time, rest assured that proper execution of your will can be completed even with social distancing being the norm.