Client Alert: Financial and Healthcare Decision-Making During a Crisis

BY CESIRA NEWCOMB • APRIL 10, 2020

COVID-19 has changed our lives in so many ways. Social distancing and wearing masks at the grocery store have become the new normal. We are all doing our best to make sure our families are safe, which in many cases has meant thinking about who should make decisions for us or our loved ones in the event of an illness or disability. If you have a loved one who does not have a power of attorney and/or healthcare proxy, you may find yourself in the difficult position of having to seek a conservatorship and/or guardianship to be able to step in and make those important financial or medical decisions on their behalf.

Both conservators and guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for someone who is not able to make those decisions for themselves. Conservators make financial decisions; guardians make medical decisions. While the Courts are closed except for emergencies, requests for temporary conservators and guardians are still being heard. If you believe there is a financial or medical decision that needs to be made now and cannot wait, our team is available to help you navigate through this already difficult time. In addition, if you have not documented who you want making those decisions for you, we strongly encourage you to consult with one of our estate planning attorneys.

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