

## Stewart – Massachusetts Mid-Week Update – April 8, 2020

Dear Stewart Partners,

We hope that you, your colleagues, staff and family are doing well. It has been another week since our lives and business practices have been dramatically altered. We know that every day presents new challenges and we are here to work with you. In an effort to keep you aware of developments and information which is important to your practice below is some information we hope you will find useful.

- *NEW LEGISLATION: “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19” – Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020*
  - Among other things, the law allows a municipality to extend the due date for the fourth quarter FY2021 (or second half FY2021) real estate tax bill beyond the May 1 date to a date not later than June 1, 2020. Because this is only an option, you should check with each City or Town to determine if the Mayor or Board of Selectmen has decided to adopt an extension.
  - The Act also **suspends the deadline for a municipality to exercise its right of first refusal** to purchase property under **MGL c. 61, 61A, and 61B** during the Governor’s state of emergency and for 90 days thereafter. The Act can be viewed here: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2020/Chapter53>
  - You can also view the MA Department of Revenue’s Division of Local Services Bulletin with guidance on the Act here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bul-2020-02/download>
- *Bulletin MA2020001- Suspension of Deadlines and Extension of Statutes of Limitation*

On April 3, 2020 we issued a bulletin advising our agents of the Supreme Judicial Court order relative to the suspension of deadlines and extension of statutes of limitation. As a result of the SJC’s order, certain liens and encumbrances on title may be extended. The underwriting bulletin can be viewed here: <https://www.virtualunderwriter.com/en/bulletins/2020-3/ma20200010.html>
- *How to Protect Yourself in the Age of Videoconferencing Calls*

The following article, published on April 1, 2020 in Associations Now, features tips to protect your next Zoom videoconferencing event. [https://associationsnow.com/2020/03/how-to-protect-yourself-in-the-age-of-videoconferencing-calls/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=rasa\\_io](https://associationsnow.com/2020/03/how-to-protect-yourself-in-the-age-of-videoconferencing-calls/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=rasa_io)
- *Stewart’s Massachusetts COVID-19 Resource Page*

We’ve put together a resource page for you which contains all the local information relative to underwriting guidance, affidavits, registry closures and frequently asked questions. This site will be updated regularly. To access click **HERE** and make it a favorite on your web-browser. You can also copy the following URL and paste it into your web browser: <https://www.stewart.com/content/stewart/stewartcom/en/stg/massachusetts/underwriting-resources/forms-policy-information/covid-19-info-resources.html>

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