

Stewart – Massachusetts Mid-Week Update – June 17, 2020

We've made it through another week, and it seems that all the self-quarantining and isolation have paid off as the COVID-19 numbers remain low in Massachusetts as the Governor slowly starts to reopen the state. This is all great news as we are just a few days away from the official start of summer, and for many real estate attorneys, this is a really busy time of year. June is National Homeownership Month, and Stewart thanks all of you who help make this possible for so many, especially this year, with the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this week's email, we have updated information on the Registry of Deeds and a few additional items about National Homeownership Month, Virtual Office Hours at three Probate Courts, and working remotely.

- **Massachusetts Registry of Deeds recording / filing update**

Please note the following changes in registry status from last week:

- North Worcester – will be offering in-person services by appointment only between the hours of 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Masks are required to be worn at all times while in the Registry. Closings will be limited to attorneys and those needed to be there to sign documents. Please call 978-342-2132 to schedule an appointment.
- South Berkshire – office is no longer closed to the public; if you are going to the office, you must wear a mask; the office is now accepting in-person recordings, mail-in recordings, recordings via their drop box, and e-recording for recorded land documents only.

- **June is National Homeownership Month!**

June is National Homeownership Month, a time to celebrate the benefits that homeownership brings to families, neighborhoods and communities across America. It's also a time to help your clients understand the benefits of title insurance and how it protects their property rights. Through the [Homeowner Outreach Program](#), ALTA provides exclusive resources to help ALTA members explain title insurance and the closing process. Your Stewart ASR also has Stewart branded materials on title insurance and its value, in both paper and an electronic format. To receive these pieces, please reach out to your ASR.

- **Barnstable, Essex, and Middlesex Probate and Family Court Registers offer Virtual Office Hours**

Trial Court Chief Justice Paula M. Carey and Probate and Family Court Chief Justice John D. Casey announced that Barnstable, Essex, and Middlesex Probate and Family Court Registers' Offices are using Zoom videoconferencing to operate virtual registries to assist the public.

The pilot program creates a virtual registry for Probate and Family Court matters using a recurring Zoom videoconference meeting link that operates during normal business hours when a host from a register's office is logged in. Virtual registries offer all of the assistance normally available during an in-person visit, including face-to-face contact, the ability to obtain and get assistance with court forms, and access to court documents and docket information. To learn more about the Virtual Registries, visit this link: <https://www.mass.gov/news/three-probate-and-family-court-registers-offices-pilot-virtual-registries>

- ***The Remote Workplace***

The pandemic has created a shift in how we work and in some cases, the remote workplace may not be a temporary solution, but one that is incorporated to how law firms do business. The Rocket Guide to Working Remotely as a Lawyer is a short read and provides great information on establishing a successful remote workplace. You can obtain a copy here:

<https://www.rocketmatter.com/practice-management/rocket-guide-working-remotely-lawyer/>

- ***Stewart Underwriting Webinars***

Did you miss the webinar hosted by our underwriters this morning on “Good Deeds”? This was a back to basics webinar for paralegals and new attorneys – or seasoned veterans who would like a refresher. The underwriters discussed what to look for when reviewing deeds and gave examples of some of the bad deeds they’ve encountered along the way. Don’t worry, a recording will be available shortly. Just email Aaron Monahan at aaron.monahan@stewart.com to request the recording or go to our microsite recourse page, where it will be posted under our “Webinar Recordings” section.

<https://www.stewart.com/content/stewart/stewartcom/en/stg/massachusetts/underwriting-resources/forms-policy-information/covid-19-info-resources.html>

- ***Stewart’s Massachusetts COVID-19 Resource Page***

Please view our resource page 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>

stewart title®

200 5th Avenue, Suite 301, Waltham, MA 02451

Phone: 800-628-2988 Fax: 781-697-3336

Monarch Place - 1414 Main Street, Suite 1835, Springfield, MA 01144

Phone: 413-930-8090 Fax: 978-964-0565

Tiziano Doto, Agency Services Manager - tiziano.doto@stewart.com

Jutta R. Deeney, VP, State Counsel - jutta.deeney@stewart.com

Shannon Coleman, Underwriting Counsel - scoleman@stewart.com

Christine Provost, Associate Senior Underwriter - christine.provost@stewart.com

Tracie Kester, Underwriting Counsel - tracie.kester@stewart.com

Paula M. Cuculo, Underwriting Counsel - paula.cucoulo@stewart.com

Aaron Monahan, Senior Paralegal - aaron.monahan@stewart.com

General MA Underwriting Mailbox - massuwing@stewart.com

Tracy Hawkins, Agency Sales Representative Sr. - tracy.hawkins@stewart.com

Rita Kelly-Parsley, Agency Sales Representative Sr. - rita.kelly-parsley@stewart.com

Tom Potito, Agency Sales Representative Sr. - tom.potito@stewart.com

Mary Blomerth, Agency Sales Representative Sr. - mary.blomerth@stewart.com

Lyslie A. DeMeo, Agency Sales Representative, Sr. - ldemeo@stewart.com