

Dear Stewart Partners,

It's hard to believe that Memorial Day Weekend is only 10 days away, and we'll be able to celebrate mask free! As I'm sure all of you have heard, the Governor accelerated the reopening plan for Massachusetts, and as of May 29th the face-covering order is rescinded. During Monday's press conference the Governor also announced the end of the declared State of Emergency. For more details and how this will affect your practice see the highlights below.

Although Governor's Baker's announcement is on the forefront of many of our minds, there are a couple of other items we want to share with you in this mid-week update. These include information about the SECURE Act and an article about the basics of cyber liability insurance. Also, for our border agents, we've included an update to New Hampshire's clerk's office and court house re-opening.

- *Governor Baker's Covid-19 Update*

On May 17, 2021, Governor Baker held a press conference where he announced that the remaining government mandated restrictions will be lifted in most public places on May 29th. Certain environments will continue to require masking, such as the T, buses, airports, hospitals, and schools. For a complete list of locations where masks must continue to be worn, follow this link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-mask-requirements#effective-may-29:-updated-mask-requirements->

Further, the State of Emergency will be lifted as of June 15th. The end of the State of Emergency will also begin the clock to terminate the Massachusetts Remote Ink Notarization ("RIN") legislation that was enacted as a temporary law during the pandemic. This means that RIN will no longer be allowed for Massachusetts notaries as of June 18, three days after the State of Emergency terminates. In addition, the extension given to municipalities to exercise their rights of first refusal under MGL c. 61, 61A, and 61B will sunset 90 days from June 15th. To view the press conference, follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3wW6UyZeQA>

- *Federal Remote Notarization Legislation – The Secure Act*

Although remote notarization will no longer be allowed in Massachusetts, the push to enact legislation at the federal level continues. The SECURE Act, which would allow for remote online notarization nationwide, has been reintroduced in Congress. This is a bipartisan piece of legislation that would permit remote online notarization in every state and by every notary in the country. To read about the legislation follow this link to an article published in Housing Wire. <https://www.housingwire.com/articles/senators-reintroduce-bill-to-allow-remote-online-notarizations/>

- *Cyber Liability Insurance – the basics*

We came across this online article that some of you may find interesting. The statistics of cybercrime increase every year, so we know it's a risk that isn't going away. This article discusses what cyber liability insurance is and what has changed in 2021. We aren't endorsing or promoting the company sponsoring the article but found the article useful in laying out some

discussion topics you should have with your insurance agent about your policy to make sure you have the coverage you think you have. <https://woodrufflawyer.com/cyber-liability/cyber-101-liability-insurance-2021/>

- *Reopening of New Hampshire court offices*

The Supreme Court of New Hampshire has updated its emergency order governing operations effective May 18, 2021. The clerks' offices in all courts and the committees' offices will be open to the public, in keeping with the New Hampshire Constitution's requirement that "the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted."

The clerks' offices will be open and accessible to the public for purposes of obtaining court forms, requesting information, submitting filings, or reviewing case files. With this Order, there is now "in-person" access to NH probate records. Please note, masks are required in the courthouse, including the Registry of Probate.

A copy of the Order can be viewed here: <https://www.courts.state.nh.us/supreme/orders/5-14-21-Twentieth-Renewed-and-Amended-Emergency-Order-Governing-Courts-and-Committees-with-Appendix-A-B.pdf>

- *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>

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