

Blase & Associates Now Offering Online Estate Planning

In the wake of the virus the west county law firm Blase & Associates, LLC is now offering its clients an online estate planning option. Virtual meetings are handled via the free and user friendly “Zoom” conferencing system. Clients need only have access to the internet and an I-phone, I-pad, laptop or desktop computer. The clients are given two options for receiving their wills, trusts and related estate planning documents for execution - either via email or by regular mail.

The firm’s principal, Jim Blase, is also an adjunct professor with the St. Louis University School of Law, where he is currently teaching a course in Wills and Trusts to second and third year law students, using the same Zoom conferencing system.

According to Mr. Blase: “Contrary to popular belief, in Missouri it is not necessary to have a will with witnesses and a notary, in order for clients to complete an estate plan utilizing a revocable (living) trust, and to completely avoid probate. Also contrary to popular belief, normally family members of an individual may serve as witnesses to an individual’s will (assuming it is even necessary) and/or health care directive. Finally, it is not necessary to execute a will in order to designate a legal guardian for the clients’ minor children.”

Deeds and so-called “durable” powers of attorney will eventually need be notarized. The signing does not need to take place in the presence of the notary, however, as long as the signing party later acknowledges his or her signature to a notary. It is also possible to have the notarized signature become immediately effective through the use of an out-of-state online notary service. These out-of-state “online notaries” typically charge a nominal fee.

Blase & Associates will also guide clients through the process of funding their revocable trusts, again either utilizing a Zoom meeting, or via email, working with the clients’ financial advisors, where needed.

After the virus situation passes, clients are encouraged to set up a follow-up meeting with an attorney at Blase & Associates, LLC, in order to tie up any loose ends, including the completion of any notary work which was not previously accomplished online.

Please contact the law firm’s attorneys, Jim Blase [at jimblase@blaselaw.com] or Ryan Polley (at ryanpolley@blaselaw.com), with any questions, or to schedule a meeting. For information about the law firm including the firm’s fees, etc., please visit the law firm’s website at www.blaselaw.com.

Please note also that the choice of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Thank you.