



Brennan & Rogers, PLLC

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The Brennan & Rogers, PLLC Journal May 2020 Edition National Elder Law Month

We wanted to highlight a past post written by our own Smilie G. Rogers, Esq. from awhile back that is especially poignant during this time.

[“When Things Fall Apart” by Smilie G. Rogers, Esq.](#)

Current Office Procedures

In the ever-changing landscape, we currently find ourselves in due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we wanted to remind you of our current office procedures.

We are open during the Pandemic and here to make sure you are prepared, utilizing remote services and responsible social distancing measures.

The office door will be locked. If you have documents you would like us to review in advance of a meeting, please send them via e-mail, US Mail, fax, or drop them in the locked box outside our main office door to the left.

We offer remote pre-signing document reviews, again by telephone or video conference, and, as just one of our novel ways to keep clients safe during this health crisis, we can even offer window signing service. We have remote notarizations and witness options as well.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are crediting your consultation fees toward document fees. We are also including one (1) Transfer on Death Deeds (TODD), which are new to Maine. You can read about TODD's on [Smilie's Blog](#).

We will do our best to accommodate your situation during this time by offering clients the ability to pay over time on a case by case basis.

Please call (207) 361-4680 for a virtual appointment or to speak with us at any time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. Please stay safe and be well. We look forward to talking with you and seeing you soon.



Is Your Estate Plan Up to Date?



Photo Courtesy of NextGen Wealth

You should revisit and update your estate plan every three to five years and especially after significant life changes. Many people believe that once they create an estate plan, it is resolute. Smilie uses the analogy of comparing your estate plan to a car that needs routine maintenance with the occasional higher mileage tune-up. We all know what happens to your vehicle when it sits too long without any attention—the battery no longer functional, seals dry out, etc. The pandemic is serving as the check engine light for your estate plan. Are you going to ignore it, keep going until something catastrophic happens, or are you going to heed the warning and give your estate plan another look?

Federal/State Income Tax Reminders!

Federal Income Tax Filing and Payment

State of Maine Income Tax Filing and Payment

Deadlines!



The filing and payment deadline for Federal Income Taxes is July 15, 2020!

Deadlines!



The filing and payment deadline for Maine State Income Taxes is July 15, 2020!



Are you feeling over taxed by tax season this year? Smilie prepares tax returns for seniors, estates, and trusts! Give us a call for this "no contact" service, including a secure external client dropbox enabling us to accomplish everything remotely. We are here to help; call us today!

By protecting yourself, you are protecting others!

Wash your hands!

The most current information available suggests the most effective way to protect ourselves, at this time, is by simply washing your hands. Believe it or not, there is a correct way to do it. Our December Newsletter featured National Handwashing Awareness Week and explained the proper method of washing your hands along with other vital information. We didn't know at the time just how relevant this information would be. Read our December issue below and [view our archives](#) on our website. We also invite you to forward our December newsletter to help spread awareness about the importance of proper handwashing.



Know Before You go!

As phase 1 of the Governor's Plan begins for reopening the state starts May 1, 2020, we all need to be aware of [the measures businesses are required to take](#) to operate safely and remain open and what your responsibility is a client to comply.

DIY Face Covering Instructions!

[CDC Guidelines for making your own mask and ways to do it without a sewing machine!](#)

Helpful Links

Some of these we have received from our clients! If you find something you think may be useful, please forward them to either [Smilie](#) or [Kim](#). We will make sure they get shared with others!

General Information

[Get your affairs in order, COVID-19 won't wait](#)

End of Life

[The Conversation Project is dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care.](#)

Documents

[Free Advance Health Care Directive published by the Maine Hospital Association](#) - Maine requires two witnesses to witness it and having it notarized is preferable. We encourage you to print, fill it out and please forward this to anyone you think would find this information useful.

Religious

[For our Catholic Clients, the Portland Archdiocese has published "The Three Beliefs: A Guide for Maine Catholics on End of Life Decisions"](#)

Religious Services Available Online

[The Parish of the Ascension of the Lord](#) which collectively consists of St. Rafael's, St. Christopher's and Our Lady of the Angels live stream their Masses via Facebook.

[The Eliot Baptist Church](#) has also moved their services online.

[Temple Israel in Portsmouth, NH](#) also live streams their services.

Organization of Personal Information

Our ["Day After Guide"](#) is available on our website for free to help you organize your everyday information.

[The American Bar Association has created a free tool kit for Health Care Advance Planning](#)

Current Maine Executive Orders

Maine is under a ["Stay Safer at Home Executive Order"](#) until May 31, 2020

[Governor Mills Presents Safe, Gradual Plan to Restart Maine's Economy](#)

Closures and Cancellations

[*Southern Maine State Parks and Beaches closed.*](#)

[*York's Extension of Declaration of Civil Emergency and Emergency Order*](#)

[*Kennebunk beaches remain closed until further notice*](#)

The majority of the schools in our area have made the decision to remote learn through the end of the school year.

Event Cancellations

[*Currently, nine Maine Agricultural Fairs have been canceled and others are waiting for further guidance.*](#)

[*Great Falls Balloon Festival- Canceled*](#)

[*Maine Lobster Festival 2020- Canceled*](#)

[*Wilton Blueberry Festival 2020- Canceled*](#)

[*Ogunquit Playhouse 2020 Season- Canceled*](#)

[*Funtown/Splashtown USA 2020 Season- Closed*](#)

Over the Border in New Hampshire

[*New Hampshire's Official Release for their order "Stay at Home 2.0"*](#)

[*Prescott Park 2020 Season- Canceled*](#)

Stores Offering special hours for the Senior Citizen and At-Risk population

These and other stores may also be limiting the amount of people in the store at one time in order to promote proper social distancing! Be prepared! This list could be changing daily so please check with the store before you go!

1) BJ's Wholesale Club (Members 60+)

Daily

8:00 am -9:00 am

2) Dollar General (senior citizens and at-risk)

Daily

First hour the store is open

3) Dollar Tree (senior citizens, pre-existing conditions and pregnant women)

Daily

First Hour the store is open

4) Hannaford (60+ and those who are immune-compromised)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

6:00 am -7:00 am

5) Market Basket (60 years+)

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

5:30 am -7:00 am

6) Shaw's (seniors citizens, immune-compromised, at-risk, pregnant, etc...)
Tuesdays and Thursdays
7:00 am - 9:00 am

7) Target (elderly and those with underlying health conditions)
Wednesdays
First hour the store is open

8) Whole Foods (for people 60+)
Daily
Opening one hour earlier

Why Hindsight's 2020



We hope all of our clients, followers, their families and friends are staying safe and healthy during this time. We are in this together!

Follow Us across Social Media



Yelp Reviews

See what our clients
have to say about their
experiences!

Google Reviews

Brennan & Rogers, PLLC Online

Explore our Legal Blog: Planning for
Life's Transitions on Wordpress

View archived newsletters on our
website

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Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm
Saturday: By appointment
Sunday: Closed

*Satellite office located in [Kennebunk, ME](#) is staffed for scheduled appointments made through the York office only *

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A BBB Accredited
Business since
12/3/2019 with an
A+ Rating



Leading the Way in Special Needs and Elder Law