



**March 17, 2020**

### **A Message to Our Clients and Prospective Clients About COVID-19**

We hope you and your loved ones are safe during this unprecedented time. As the pandemic continues to spread, we are taking steps to protect the health of our clients, office staff, and our community. These include the temporary closure of our physical office. Starting on March 17, 2020, our office will remain closed until at least Monday, March 30, 2020. **It is important to note that we are open for business. We are continuing our ongoing work to protect the interests of all of our clients. Our telephones will continue to be answered. We are available for virtual meetings and conferences. Please read our FAQ's at the bottom of this notice.**

The Connecticut Judicial Branch has issued an order which affects most cases, with the exception of "Priority One" cases. Several courthouses have been closed and others remain open on a limited basis. The Judicial Branch is updating its information page regularly. It is not yet clear when judicial operations will return to normal.

As most of you already know, we have the technology which allows us to work efficiently from remote locations. We will continue to communicate with you by phone, email, and through video conferencing as necessary. We do not expect the physical office closure to affect our workflow, but we ask for your patience if it does. We do anticipate delays in getting hearing time and in getting motions and other court appearances rescheduled. We also anticipate that mediations and depositions will be postponed or may occur by video conference although there are complications even doing that.

The long-term effects on our economy, your incomes, and the market value of your assets is unknown at this time, but almost certainly will be significant and may require re-doing your financial affidavits and updating financial disclosure. We will deal with this when the time is right.

We must all do our part to help contain the spread of COVID-19. We are doing our part by maintaining good personal hygiene and respecting the experts' views on social distancing. We strongly encourage everyone to take all precautionary measures to safeguard their health, and the health of others, as recommended by the World Health Organization and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We have attached links at the bottom of this email to various websites to give you information you may need.

We encourage each of you to think about our community; don't hoard supplies, help those less fortunate than you if they need it, if you are an employer help your staff as you can, and keep a positive attitude. The supply chain works and everything we need will become available, even if it isn't at the usual pace of "right now" that we all have become accustomed to. Our parents and grandparents survived World War II; more recently our nation survived an economic downturn and the 9-11 event. If we remain resolute and calm, and adopt an optimistic view, this will pass.

Thank you for being our client and for your interest in learning more about Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin. You can count on us to be a steady and reassuring force during these uncertain times.

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Connecticut Judicial Branch: <https://www.jud.ct.gov/>

State of Connecticut: <https://portal.ct.gov/>

## **FAQ's:**

### **Are you open on a full-time basis?**

Yes, Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin is open on a full-time basis, operating under our normal business hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If contact is desired at other times, we are continuing our policy of making ourselves reasonably available at times other than our regular office hours. Our lawyers and paralegals are continuing to focus on their case assignments. Rest assured that you can call, email or videoconference with us during this time.

### **Can I have a consultation with my lawyer remotely?**

Yes, Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin has always maintained a remote working capability. All of our lawyers and paralegals are equipped to work securely from home and are doing so. We regularly utilize a variety of videoconferencing options, including Zoom meeting, GoToMeeting and AdobeConnect. You will find that Zoom meeting is quick and easy to use. Please contact one of our attorneys to discuss the platform that works best for you.

### **How are court hearings and appointments affected?**

The Connecticut and Federal Courts are responding to this pandemic in much the same way as the rest of us. That is, as more information becomes available, they are changing their approach, postponing hearings and adjusting their regular operations. The link to the Connecticut Judicial Branch website indicates that non-emergency hearings are being rescheduled. As leaders in the family law community, we are contributing to the decision making process and closely tracking changes. The best thing to do is to speak with one of us to assess what this will mean for your case.

### **Can I consult with a lawyer about a new family law or divorce matter?**

Yes, our entire office is working on a full-time basis. Our remote access technologies ensure that no business interruption occurs. For information about a family law or divorce matter please call our office at (203) 227-7301.

Your family law matters remain our top priority. Our decades-long reputation for, and commitment to protecting our clients' needs remains in full force and effect. While the requirements of social distancing mean that we cannot meet in person, our team stands ready to meet your needs in an expeditious, protective and focused way.