



Georgia Authorizes Remote Signings for Estate Planning (eNotary & Remote Witnessing)

The State of Georgia has authorized the witnessing and the notarization of legal documents relating to estate planning via the use of live electronic video conferencing since April 9, 2020.

Under Georgia law, certain estate planning documents must be signed in the physical presence of witnesses and a notary public. However, Georgia's mandatory "shelter in place" order and general social distancing practices forced attorneys to put a hold on executing estate planning documents with clients until Governor Brian Kemp signed Executive Order 04.09.20.01, allowing the use of remote witnessing and notarization for estate planning documents.

The Order requires that the necessary parties use any real-time, audio-visual communication technology (for example, Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp) while executing their estate plan documents. This Order allows KPPB LAW to move forward with the signing of estate planning documents such as Trusts, Wills, Financial Powers of Attorney, Advance Directives for Healthcare, and Probate/Guardianship/Conservatorship Petitions.

These documents will be valid under Georgia law, and where feasible, will be re-executed once the shelter-in-place mandates in Georgia have been lifted and it is safe to physically sign in person again. **If you would like to discuss your estate planning documents or have questions about the new e-notary authorization and remote witnessing, as a result of this executive order, contact KPPB LAW's [Ritu \(Verma\) Gordon](#) at 678-443-2214.**

