

NEW REGULATION FOR SIGNING AND WITNESSING OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS DURING COVID-19

Video conferencing technology such as Skype, WhatsApp, FaceTime and Zoom can now be used for the witnessing of important legal documents like Wills, Powers of Attorney, Enduring Guardianships and Statutory Declarations. The signing of these key legal documents usually requires the presence of one or more witnesses. This has been difficult to achieve during the COVID-19 restrictions. The new temporary Regulation*, which commenced on 22 April 2020, will help reduce face-to-face contact during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Under the new regulation, a witness must see a person signing the document in real time to confirm the signature is legitimate, but this can be done by video conferencing technology. The witness will sign the document, or a copy of the document, to confirm they witnessed the signature. This can be done on a hard copy that is scanned and emailed to the witness or on an identical counterpart of the document which the signatory signs during the video conference. These changes will make it easier for people to attend to important legal matters whilst staying at home and reducing physical contact during the pandemic.

If you want to know more, please contact Roslyn Pavey, Principal Lawyer, JSA Legal Solutions.



WILLS | ESTATES | ESTATE PLANNING

www.jsagroup.com.au

reception@jsagroup.com.au

Telephone (02) 4908 0999

Roslyn Pavey – Principal Lawyer B Leg S, Master of Applied Law (Wills and Estates)

JSA Legal Solutions Pty Ltd ABN 54 628 164 750. Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation. All legal practitioners employed by JSA Legal Solutions Pty Ltd are members of the Scheme.

**The Electronic Transactions Amendment (COVID-19 Witnessing of Documents) Regulation 2020.*