Common Questions & Answers

The answers to these questions do not constitute legal advice and that no client/attorney relationship has been established.

Guardianship

Q: What will happen to my minor children if I get sick and the father of my children is in another country?
A: In Illinois, you can create a Short-term Guardianship which is good for 1 year and renewable for another year. A Court Order is not required. You can designate when it starts and when the Short-term Guardianship ends. Please note that not all third parties recognize this document. You may still need to designate someone who is willing and who is also is legally and financially able to take care of your minor children. They would then need to obtain a Court Ordered Guardianship. If the other Parent is available, this form will not have any legal impact unless the other Parent does not want to take care of the minor children or cannot do so for other reasons. There may be other circumstances which may have an impact on this case. It is important to consult with an Attorney, not a lay person or a Notary Public before taking further action. For more information, call, the ABA's Hotline at: 888-743-5749.

Obtaining a Will

Q: I am scared that if I die, my estranged parent may get my money.
A: Consider obtaining a simple Will. Wills are helpful to make sure that your property goes to someone whom you want to receive your property. Wills are also useful to try to make sure that someone whom you do NOT want to receive your property does not receive your property. There may be other circumstances under which may have an impact on this case. It is important to consult with an Attorney, not a lay person or a Notary Public before taking further action. For more information, call, the ABA's Hotline at: 888-743-5749.

Unemployment

Q: If I am in the process of becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident through my spouse, can I receive unemployment benefits?
A: Yes, if you have Employment Authorization from USCIS. There may be other circumstances upon which you may qualify for unemployment benefits. It is important to consult with an Attorney, not a lay person or a Notary Public before taking further action. For more information, call, the ABA's Hotline at: 888-743-5749.

Rent/Mortgage

Q: I just lost my job. Do I have to pay my rent? I just lost my job. Do I have to pay my mortgage?
A: Generally, YES! Unless you are living in Government housing or your landlord has received money or a mortgage from the government. If your landlord /mortgage holder does not receive government money or is not a governmental entity, you are legally obligated to pay the rent or your mortgage. Even though courts are generally closed right now, they will eventually open and your landlord/ mortgage holder can then take legal action against you. I strongly advise you to contact your landlord or, in the case of owning your home, contact the Bank or other entity holding your mortgage. It is in also in the landlord’s interest also to arrange with you. There may be other circumstances upon which you may qualify for rent/mortgage relief. It is important to consult with an Attorney, not a lay person or a Notary Public before taking further action.

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