

HODGE TEMPLE & REAL ESTATE ATTORNEYS

H&T COVID-19 Response

Here at Hodge & Temple, we are taking the COVID-19 alerts very seriously and want to make you aware of the policies we are putting in place to protect our clients, employees, and community. We realize that the service we provide to our industry is a crucial one and we are committed to providing the safest and most secure environment we can.

Due to recent announcements throughout our country, we want to take the time to reassure you of what Hodge & Temple is doing to keep everyone safe. We are implementing more extensive cleaning, sanitizing and hand-washing as advised by the CDC and NIH. Additionally, we are staggering our employee work hours and stressing the importance of working remotely when possible. A smaller staff on site means less exposure for those visiting our office. As for our office space, we are keeping our doors and windows open for air flow, placing cleansing humidifiers in our conference rooms, removing the communal coffee station and placing hand sanitizer at every conference table and desk. As much as we love the party atmosphere with hugs, shaking hands, and lots of friendly faces, we are limiting these interactions. We respectfully ask that you understand that our staff will not shake any hands and we will not encourage anyone to gather close for an after-closing photo-op. We ask that ONLY necessary signing parties to the transaction attend the closing...so, no real estate agents, no lenders, no friends, children, or others not necessary for the signing of closing documents. We're happy to conference those people in on the phone if needed. We hope to restrict the foot traffic in the office to best serve both our clients and our staff.

If you have a closing with us over the next few weeks and are concerned, please let us know as we can make accommodations for split closings without a fee and less interactions. We will aim to get the parties in and out as quickly as possible and as always, keep in mind, our office is nicely situated without elevators, lots of doors, or long waits in a lobby. Plus, you get to go home with your H&T pen!

Stay tuned as we will alert you all as we know more!

Tips...

As mentioned in our last newsletter, given the influx of refinance orders and now the unknown consequences of COVID-19, we want to make sure you are giving your closings enough time to get all pieces of the puzzle ready to go! For instance, make sure your financing and appraisal contingencies are long enough to get appraisals and financing in order given the lender backlog. In addition, getting our title work back will most likely be delayed as the examiners will be working on a skeleton staff and potentially have to navigate closures with the courthouse. You might want to include special stipulations in your contracts to address potential COVID-19 delays. Do not hesitate to reach out to us for suggestions. We are doing our best to keep closings on schedule but just keep these circumstances in mind!

Just as with any time, we also suggest getting your closing times scheduled as soon as possible and try to avoid Fridays and the last few days of the month as those are very busy and inevitably bring more foot traffic. Just be mindful!!

Happy to help.

We are always here for you!

Attorneys:

Katie Keehfus: Katie@hodgetemple.com

Meredith Hodge: Meredith@hodgetemple.com

Rebecca McArthur: Rebecca@hodgetemple.com

Emily Broun: Emily@hodgetemple.com

Molly Sutter: Molly@hodgetemple.com

Heidi Billington: Heidi@hodgetemple.com

Pre-Closer:

Kelly Henry: Kelly@hodgetemple.com

Closers/Prelim CD:

Natalie Sabin: Natalie@hodgetemple.com

Kirsten Fionte: Kirsten@hodgetemple.com

Post-Closer:

Jeff Burch: Jeff@hodgetemple.com

Client Services:

Stella Brown: Stella@hodgetemple.com