## **MOZLEY FINLAYSON & LOGGINS, LLP**

## COVID-19 "SHELTER IN PLACE" RESPONSE

On March 24, 2020 the Mayor(s) of Atlanta and Brookhaven and the Cobb County Commission each issued a Shelter in Place Order ("Order") effective as of that date, please visit the applicable City/County web site for all details of the Order.

The Orders apply to our business as follows:

• Directs all individuals living within the limits of the applicable City and/or County to stay at their place of residence

• Directs all businesses within the applicable City and/or County to cease non-essential operations

• The Cobb order restricts non-essential business operations to between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.

 The Cobb order does not affect the hours of operation for essential businesses including the firm's East Cobb office which remains open in compliance with the Cobb order.

• Prohibits all non-essential gatherings of any number of individuals

Essential Operations and Essential Businesses include the practice of law and MFL's offices located within these jurisdictions are open. However, in compliance with the Orders, no one other than those who are essential for the closing are allowed to be present at our offices.

The only essential parties required to attend a residential real estate closing are those who are signing closing documents - the buyers and the sellers.

Real estate agents, family members, loan officers and any other members of the public are non-essential parties and, pursuant to the Order, should not be present at the closing as long as the Order is in effect.

IS MFL Open for Business and Closing at its offices? Yes.

"Essential Businesses" include "professional services such as legal and accounting services." This means that all MFL offices will remain open for closings.

Which MFL Offices are in the any of the affected areas? As of 3/24/2020 The East Cobb office on Shallowford Rd. is the only affected office. However, as an essential business, we can still conduct closings there as long as we comply with CDC and NIH hygiene and social distancing guidelines.

Who Is Required to Come to Closing? Only "essential parties" are required to come.

The essential parties to a closing are only those individuals who have to sign documents - the buyers and sellers only.

Who Should Not Come to Closing? Per the government mandate, agents, loan officers, non-signing family members, and other non-essential parties should not come to real estate closings during the effective period of the Order.

Can Agents Still Participate in the Closing? Of course. Please reach out to your MFL attorney, who will work with you to coordinate your virtual presence at closing if you feel it necessary.

We anticipate other jurisdictions to follow the above "Shelter in Place" state of emergency orders, and we will continue to respond in a similar manner for any of our offices that are affected by such orders.