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DIGITAL INFORMATION SHOULD DISASTER STRIKE

1. Key Information

When I became a lawyer, the only "secret information" discussed during an estate planning interview was maybe the combination to a safe. In the 21st century, most of us have dozens, if not hundreds, of passwords, PIN numbers, alarm codes, and secret user names for personal and business accounts of all imaginable sorts. If you were incapacitated tonight, who could open your computer, access your financial or social media sites, or even start your car?

Who could find the passwords to devices containing your important photographs and financial, legal, family, and tax documentation? Certain email accounts should also be available to someone else who will be able to manage a plethora of issues and problems which will inevitably arise.

Especially if you live alone, consider informing a trusted relative or friend how to locate "access information" ("If I am hit by a truck, look behind my sock drawer") to your important "life details", such as: a) bank, investment, rewards, and loan accounts; b) credit cards, safe deposit box information, money owed to you; c) user names, combinations, PINS, passwords, and other codes; d) offsite storage facilities; e) contact information for workers (including occasional domestics), accountants, lawyers, doctors, landlords, tenants, vendors, and others; and f) physical keys to access rooms, closets, bank boxes, vaults, cars, lockers, etc.

The list can be maintained in a paper folder, CD, cloud account, or flash drive and can remain private and be updated, moved, or destroyed at your whim - without ever visiting a lawyer!

Even a short list of "digital information" might be indispensable to you or your family should you become stuck in a hospital - or worse. Give careful thought to how your affairs could be continued.

2. Office Cases

In the new year, I have represented owners of a commercial building with a proposed lease with option to buy and the purchaser of a professional practice. I also counseled a prospective investor in a real estate syndicate; ended a seven-year "bet-the-company" lawsuit against a client which paid no damages; defended a business against continuing employee litigation; and assisted a wrongly-billed Medicare recipient.

This office serves as a Lawyer of First Resort™ advocating for small businesses and individuals with disputes and transactions, including accident victims by referral only. We specialize in personalized client service and are careful to consider and examine all rights and liabilities of a client and consequences of terminology, legislation, court cases, and the commercial environment.

If we can be of any assistance with your legal issues, consider contacting us as soon as a question is identified. Your recent referrals have been greatly appreciated.

Remember: Preventative lawyering is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,

HARMON SIEFF