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MEMBER



*Special needs require special lawyers.*

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## WHAT IS DOCUBANK? BY PATTY LYONS

An advance medical directive (AMD) is a healthcare power of attorney and a living will. Why should you to register your AMD? Research has found that 75% of the time you need your AMD, it is not available, for example, when you are in a hospital emergency room. Oast & Hook can register your AMD with DocuBank, a company that ensures that your AMD is available worldwide, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

How does DocuBank work? If you are interested in registering your AMD with DocuBank, then Oast & Hook will prepare a form with the information that will appear on your DocuBank Emergency Access Wallet Card. After Oast & Hook sends your form and AMD to DocuBank for registration, DocuBank will send you the wallet card, and contact you once a year to see if any of your information needs to be updated. The wallet card provides healthcare providers with immediate access to your AMD, as well as any other information that DocuBank has on file for you. With your DocuBank card available, healthcare providers can obtain your AMD immediately from DocuBank by fax or the internet by using the member number, PIN, and instructions on your card. DocuBank also sends you alert stickers to put on your driver's license and health insurance card to make healthcare providers aware that your AMD is registered with DocuBank. Your Emergency Access Wallet Card displays lifesaving medical information, including your allergies and important medical conditions, so emergency medical staff can give you the most appropriate treatment without delay. You can also have DocuBank provide a list of your current medications along with your AMD, for a small additional fee. One of Oast & Hook's clients attributes his being alive today to his emergency room physicians having access to his medication list from DocuBank. When healthcare providers request your AMD from DocuBank, they will also receive the names and the phone numbers of your physician,

and up to three health care agents. Additionally, the name of your primary emergency contact and relevant telephone numbers appear on your card for quick access.

DocuBank has another program called I.C.E. (in case of an emergency) that is designed for college students. Under the I.C.E. program, the student signs a HIPAA release that is registered with DocuBank. (HIPAA is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.) A HIPAA release is a document that designates someone to receive healthcare information about another person. The student carries an Emergency Access Wallet Card with the same information as the AMD wallet card. If DocuBank is contacted by healthcare provider to obtain medical information about the student, then DocuBank sends an e-mail or text message to the parents of the student with the name and telephone number of the healthcare provider that requested the student's documents. DocuBank is in the process of developing a similar program for younger children and all of their caregivers. This will be for baby sitters, grandparents, day care providers, divorced parents with custody agreements, and guardians. If you would like more information about DocuBank, then please contact Oast & Hook.

*Patty Lyons is a paralegal with Oast & Hook. She concentrates her work in the area of estate planning.*

### Ask Allie

O&H: Allie, while we're on the subject of emergency notifications, what can pet families do for their pets in case of an emergency?

Allie: There are several things families can do. First, DocuBank provides space on the Emergency Access Wallet Card for a note. A pet owner can state on the card that the pet owner has an animal at home that needs care. There are also several websites that provide pet families with other ways to notify others that they have pets at home or with them during travel. Second Chance for Pets has identification cards for home or wallet at <http://site.vanillaprintdesign.com/marleys/formsKASJKS/idcards.pdf>. PetTravelCenter.com has a wealth of information as well as forms for those who travel with their pets at [www.pettravelcenter.com](http://www.pettravelcenter.com). The Pet Emergency Traveler Kit has a kit for home and travel at [www.pettravelkit.com/index.php](http://www.pettravelkit.com/index.php). Hmm, I'd better make sure that everyone at Oast & Hook has an emergency card for me!



Please feel free to e-mail your pet- and animal-related questions to Allie at: [allie@oasthook.com](mailto:allie@oasthook.com).

### Announcements

Thomas Hoddinott from Thomas Hoddinott Insurance Agency and Andrew Hook will present the “Long-term Care and Elder Care Seminar” at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 10th, at 1530 Breezeport Way, Suite 600, Suffolk, Virginia. Seats are limited, so please register early. For more information or to register please phone Jennifer Lantz at 757-399-7506.

Oast & Hook will hold its quarterly Social Workers and Administrators Breakfast on February 12th at the Virginia Beach Central Library. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the presentation begins at 9:00 a.m. The breakfast is designed to be both a networking opportunity and also an educational opportunity for area professionals who work with seniors, the disabled, and their families. This seminar’s topic is “Brain Fitness.” The guest speaker is Bethany Gilstrap, Psy.D., from Hampton Roads Neuropsychology. Seats are limited, so please register early. To register for this breakfast, please phone Linda Gerber at 757-967-9704 or register online at <http://oasthooksw.eventbrite.com>.

Andrew Hook will give a presentation entitled “Special Needs Planning: It is More than Drafting a Trust,” at the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation’s 13th Annual Elder Law Symposium. This symposium will be held at the North Carolina Bar Center in Cary, North Carolina. For more information or to register online, visit the North Carolina Bar Association website at [www.ncbar.org/cle/programs/index.aspx?id=574ELS](http://www.ncbar.org/cle/programs/index.aspx?id=574ELS).

### Distribution of This Newsletter

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