



Georgia Governmental Plan Alert: Open Meetings by Teleconference Due to COVID-19

March 17, 2020

Dear Clients and Friends,

I wanted to reach out to you with some quick information on open “teleconference” meetings during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A. Section 50-14-1(g), allows governmental plan boards or committees to hold meetings by teleconference under circumstances necessitated by emergency conditions involving public safety or the preservation of public services, which we believe includes the current COVID-19 pandemic.

To comply with the Open Meetings Act, proper notice of the teleconference meeting must be provided in the same manner as any other meeting and the public must be afforded simultaneous access to the teleconference meeting. The notice of the teleconference meeting should include the necessary information for the public to access the teleconference meeting. While the Open Meetings Act does not define “teleconference” for this purpose, as long as the method of access (e.g., conference call line, internet, videoconference, etc.) utilized allows the public to have simultaneous access of the teleconference meeting, it should be permissible.

Should you have any questions on conducting teleconference meetings or need any other assistance during this time, please feel free to reach out to me. Most of all, I and the entire MMM family wish you and your loved ones continued good health.

Sincerely,

Ed Emerson

Partner

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