

# legal matters

LITIGATION

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The advice offered in this column is intended for informational purposes only. Use of this column is not intended to replace or substitute any professional, financial, medical, legal, or other professional advice.

**Q**

**My friend named me in her power of attorney for property. I'm not sure if I should accept it or where to start.**

**A**

This is not something to consider lightly. Whether someone is an estate trustee for the estate of someone that has passed away, or they act under a power of attorney for someone that is still alive, they are considered a fiduciary. A fiduciary is someone that has a legal obligation to act for the benefit of another person in all matters within the scope of the authority granted. The exercise of the authority requires a high standard of care and a failure to exercise that duty properly, may lead to claims personally against the fiduciary.

One way to hold a fiduciary accountable is to require them to pass accounts for the period of time under which they acted as a fiduciary. Passing accounts requires the fiduciary to provide an accounting in a specific format that accounts for all transactions undertaken in their role. It is important that a fiduciary maintains excellent records and is able to provide particulars and supporting documentation with respect to the accounts. Estates may take a few years to completely administer, and acting under a power of attorney often last much longer. There are options if you do not want to accept the responsibility, but the process depends on whether you have taken any steps under the authorities conferred.

It is always important to get comprehensive estate planning advice in advance, however, if you are dealing with an estate issue, give us a call to set up a free ½ hour consultation. Enjoy the weekend

## NEWS

# FIRST CASE OF MONKEYPOX REPORTED IN HALTON

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Halton Region Public Health has confirmed Halton's first reported case of monkeypox. In a news release issued June 8, the Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani said the individual afflicted with the virus is currently isolating at home and all their contacts have been notified by Halton Region Public Health.

The Region said the infected person is an adult male who was previously identified as a contact of a probable case in Ontario.

No additional information about the individual, such as the municipality he resides in, has been provided.

"While most people infected with monkeypox will have mild symptoms, some people, such as children, pregnant women and those with immunodeficiencies, are at higher risk for severe disease," said Meghani.

"If you have symptoms of monkeypox, it is important to stay home and call your doctor to be assessed. When seeking medical care, you should wear a high-quality medical mask and cover up all lesions."

Meghani said monkeypox symptoms typically include fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, low

**"If you have symptoms of monkeypox, it is important to stay home and call your doctor to be assessed. When seeking medical care, you should wear a high-quality medical mask and cover up all lesions."**

**- Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani**

energy, muscle aches and skin rash or lesions. The rash usually begins within one to three days of the start of a fever.

Lesions can be flat or slightly raised, filled with clear or yellowish fluid, and can then crust, dry up and fall off, much like

chickenpox.

The number of lesions on one person can range from a few, to several thousand.

The rash tends to be concentrated on the face, palms of the hands and soles of the feet. Symptoms can reportedly start within five to 21 days after exposure to monkeypox, but usually appear in six to 13 days.

Symptoms last between two to four weeks and go away on their own without treatment. A person infected with monkeypox can be contagious five days prior to the onset of a rash until the rash has cleared and new skin has formed after a few weeks.

Meghani said the virus can spread from person-to-person by respiratory secretions, direct contact with skin lesions, and/or contact with materials contaminated with the virus (e.g., bedding, clothing). The virus enters the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or mucous membranes (e.g., mouth, nose, eyes).

Transmission through respiratory secretions requires prolonged face to face contact with close proximity to an infected person.

Halton Region Public Health said they continue to monitor the situation, investigate suspected and confirmed cases and complete contact tracing.

For more information on the virus, visit Halton Region's monkeypox webpage.

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