NJORD Lithuania: Notarial acts can already be performed remotely

An important amendment to the Law on the Notary Office of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter – Law on the Notary Office), allowing the performance of many notarial acts remotely has entered into force on 1 July 2021.

The amendment was a positive result brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, together with other progressive changes such as remote working, online conferences with customers and employees, remote court hearings, etc. Also, by amending the Law on the Notary Office, Lithuania has contributed to the implementation of the European Union e-Justice Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2019 - 2023.

Currently all notarial acts can be performed remotely in Lithuania, except for (1) approval of wills, (2) confirmation of the fact that the natural person is alive and in a certain area, (3) storage of personal wills equivalent to official wills.

One of the most popular notarial acts that the customers typically choose to perform remotely is the issuance of a remote power of attorney. However, it is also possible to remotely certify real estate transactions, securities transfer transactions, marriage contracts, mortgage and pledge transactions, issuance of a right of inheritance certificate. It is important to note that all requirements established by the Law on the Notary Office and other legal acts continue to apply to notarial acts performed remotely. Also, the parties to the transaction need to have a valid e-signature.