

4 Legal Documents You Should Have

Will

This is a document that helps to lay out how you want your assets and belongings to be distributed after you or a loved one passes away. This document should be created well before it is needed and can be updated as frequently as needed.

Living Will or Advanced Healthcare Directive

This document allows you to make your wishes known in regards to major medical decision such as life-saving measures, life support, organ donation, and more.

Health Care Power of Attorney

This document allows you to choose a person who will be in charge of your medical decisions (outside of those you indicated in your Living Will) should you become unable to make them.

Financial Power of Attorney

This document allows you to choose a person who will be in charge of your finances if you are ever unable to take care of them. The following financial tasks are included within the Financial power of attorney: paying bills and taxes, managing investments, paying for medical care, and selling assets as needed.

Types of Power of Attorneys

- Durable - the proxy's power will **continue** if you become incapacitated
- Non-Durable - the proxy's power **ends** if you become incapacitated
- Limited - gives the proxy limited power for a specific purpose, expires after a certain date
- Springing - gives someone power only **after** you become incapacitated.