

Emergency & Longterm Planning *

Power of Attorney (POA) – Designates someone, you trust, to make decisions for you, if you are unable to.

Types of POA:

- Medical - activated when the principal becomes unable to make their own medical decisions, as determined by a medical professional. These are weighty considerations, and the role of the healthcare proxy should not be underestimated.
- Financial - grants a trusted agent the authority to act on behalf of the principal-agent in financial matters. The person granting the authority is known as the principal, while the individual receiving the authority is called the agent or attorney-in-fact. This type of POA is also referred to as a general power of attorney.
- Durable - remains in effect even if the principal becomes incapacitated, allowing for the continuity of management over the individual's affairs. This is vital, for instance, during unexpected medical emergencies where an individual might lose decision-making abilities. This type of power of attorney, endorsed by the Uniform Power of Attorney Act in many states, helps prepare for unforeseen incapacity without the need for court intervention.
- Springing - becomes active under certain conditions, such as the principal's incapacitation. This legal arrangement "springs" into action when, for example, physicians determine that the principal cannot manage their affairs due to mental incapacity. A springing POA arrangement only takes effect when a triggering event or condition occurs. A durable power of attorney, on the other hand, starts immediately and continues through a person's incapacitation.

While springing power of attorney offers the principal control over their affairs until incapacitation is confirmed, this control can also complicate matters. Legal and medical complexities may arise, possibly delaying when the agent needs to act swiftly. Disputes within the family about the principal's competence may lead to court disputes. Therefore, when considering a springing power of attorney, it is essential to clearly define the criteria for incapacity and discuss these with potential agents and healthcare providers beforehand.



HIPPA Release Form – Specifies your wishes in the event you are unable to. This helps your designated POA follow what you would want and helps advert in a crisis situation._

Advanced Directives – Specifies your wishes in the event you are unable to. This helps your designated POA follow what you would want and helps advert in a crisis situation.

- Living Will – Life sustaining treatment preference. What measures would you want or would you not want in order to save your life. This can include life support, feeding tubes, pain control and other forms of treatment in order to prolong your life.
- Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) - Informs your POA, emergency services, and hospitals/doctors/nurses, what is not allowed in the event you are not breathing or your heart stops functioning. CPR or electric shock to restart your heart will not be performed.

* Forms may vary from state to state; most are available on government websites.