



**HITZEMAN FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES**
HONORING THE LIVES OF LOVED ONES SINCE 1904

Power of Attorney For Health Care.

If your loved one is in a position that he/she is unable to make health care decisions for themselves, it would be wise to designate an agent(s) to be the decision maker if appropriate or necessary.

The following Power of Attorney Documentation may be used as a reference in order to secure Power of Attorney over your loved ones Health Care. Please consult your attorney if you have any questions pertaining to this form or the role of the Power of Health agent.

These forms are current as of January 2015.

Hitzeman Funeral Home is providing this form for your general knowledge. We are not responsible for the content or for the legal responsibility of the document enclosed.

**Illinois Statutory Short Form
Power of Attorney for Health Care
for**

NOTICE:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IS TO GIVE YOUR DESIGNATED "AGENT" BROAD POWERS TO MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR YOU, INCLUDING THE POWER TO REQUIRE, CONSENT TO, OR WITHDRAW TREATMENT FOR ANY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL CONDITION, AND TO ADMIT YOU TO OR DISCHARGE YOU FROM ANY HOSPITAL, HOME OR OTHER INSTITUTION. YOU MAY NAME SUCCESSOR AGENTS UNDER THIS FORM, BUT YOU MAY NOT NAME CO-AGENTS.

THIS FORM DOES NOT IMPOSE A DUTY UPON YOUR AGENT TO MAKE SUCH HEALTH CARE DECISIONS, SO IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU SELECT AN AGENT WHO WILL AGREE TO DO THIS FOR YOU AND WHO WILL MAKE THOSE DECISIONS AS YOU WOULD WISH. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO SELECT AN AGENT WHOM YOU TRUST, SINCE YOU ARE GIVING THAT AGENT CONTROL OVER YOUR MEDICAL DECISION-MAKING, INCLUDING END-OF-LIFE DECISIONS. ANY AGENT WHO DOES ACT FOR YOU HAS A DUTY TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH FOR YOUR BENEFIT AND TO USE DUE CARE, COMPETENCE, AND DILIGENCE. HE OR SHE MUST ALSO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW AND WITH THE STATEMENTS IN THIS FORM. YOUR AGENT MUST KEEP A RECORD OF ALL SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS TAKEN AS YOUR AGENT.

UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY LIMIT THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY WILL BE IN EFFECT, YOUR AGENT MAY EXERCISE THE POWERS GIVEN TO HIM OR HER THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFETIME, EVEN AFTER YOU BECOME DISABLED. A COURT, HOWEVER, CAN TAKE AWAY THE POWERS OF YOUR AGENT IF IT FINDS THAT THE AGENT IS NOT ACTING PROPERLY. YOU MAY ALSO REVOKE THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IF YOU WISH.

THE POWERS YOU GIVE YOUR AGENT, YOUR RIGHT TO REVOKE THOSE POWERS AND THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE LAW ARE EXPLAINED MORE FULLY IN SECTIONS 4-5, 4-6, 4-9 AND 4-10(b) OF THE ILLINOIS "POWER OF ATTORNEY ACT. THIS FORM IS A PART OF THAT LAW. THAT LAW EXPRESSLY PERMITS THE USE OF ANY DIFFERENT FORM OF POWER OF ATTORNEY YOU MAY DESIRE. THE "NOTE" PARAGRAPHS THROUGHOUT THIS FORM ARE INSTRUCTIONS.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FORM THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YOU SHOULD ASK A LAWYER TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.

NOTICE TO THE INDIVIDUAL SIGNING THE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

No one can predict when a serious illness or accident might occur. When it does, you may need someone else to speak or make health care decisions for you. If you plan now, you can increase the chances that the medical treatment you get will be the treatment you want.

In Illinois, you can choose someone to be your “health care agent.” Your agent is the person you trust to make health care decisions for you if you are unable or do not want to make them yourself. These decisions should be based on your personal values and wishes.

It is important to put your choice of agent in writing. The written form is often called an “advance directive.” You may use this form or another form, as long as it meets the legal requirements of Illinois. There are many written and on-line resources to guide you and your loved ones in having a conversation about these issues. You may find it helpful to look at these resources while thinking about and discussing your advance directive.

WHAT ARE THE THINGS I WANT MY HEALTH CARE AGENT TO KNOW?

The selection of your agent should be considered carefully, as your agent will have the ultimate decision making authority once this document goes into effect, in most instances after you are no longer able to voice your own decisions. While the goal is for your agent to make decisions in keeping with your preferences and in the majority of circumstances that is what happens, please know that the law does allow your agent to make decisions to direct or refuse health care interventions or withdraw treatment. Your agent will need to think about conversations you have had, your personality, and how you handled important health care issues in the past. Therefore, it is important to talk with your agent and your family about such things as:

- (i) What is most important to you in your life?
- (ii) How important is it to you to avoid pain and suffering?
- (iii) If you had to choose, is it more important to you to live as long as possible, or to avoid prolonged suffering or disability?
- (iv) Would you rather be at home or in a hospital for the last days or weeks of your life?
- (v) Do you have religious, spiritual, or cultural beliefs that you want your agent and others to consider?
- (vi) Do you have an existing advanced directive, such as a living will, that contains your specific wishes about health care that is only delaying your death? If you have another advance directive, make sure to discuss with your agent the directive and the treatment decisions contained within that outline your preferences. Make sure that your agent agrees to honor the wishes expressed in your advance directive.

WHAT KIND OF DECISIONS CAN MY AGENT MAKE?

If there is ever a period of time when your physician determines that you cannot make your own health care decisions, or if you do not want to make your own decisions, some of the decisions your agent could make are to:

- (i) talk with physicians and other health care providers about your condition.
- (ii) see medical records and approve who else can see them.
- (iii) give permission for medical tests, medicines, surgery, or other treatments.
- (iv) choose where you receive care and which physicians and others provide it.
- (v) decide to accept, withdraw, or decline treatments designed to keep you alive if you are near death or not likely to recover. You may choose to include guidelines and/or restrictions to your agent's authority.
- (vi) agree or decline to donate your organs if you have not already made this decision yourself. This could include donation for transplant, research, and/or education. You should let your agent know whether you are registered as a donor in the First Person Consent registry maintained by the Illinois Secretary of State.
- (vii) decide what to do with your remains after you have died, if you have not already made plans.
- (viii) talk with your other loved ones to help come to a decision (but your designated agent will have the final say over your other loved ones).

Your agent is not automatically responsible for your health care expenses.

WHOM SHOULD I CHOOSE TO BE MY HEALTH CARE AGENT?

You can pick a family member, but you do not have to. Your agent will have the responsibility to make medical treatment decisions together with your physician and other professionals, even if other people close to you might urge a different decision. The selection of your agent should be done carefully, as he or she will have ultimate decision-making authority for your treatment decisions once you are no longer able to voice your preferences. Choose a family member, friend, or other person who:

- (i) is at least 18 years old;
- (ii) knows you well;
- (iii) you trust to do what is best for you and is willing to carry out your wishes, even if he or she may not agree with your wishes;
- (iv) would be comfortable talking with and questioning your physicians and other health care providers;
- (v) would not be too upset to carry out your wishes if you became very sick; and
- (vi) can be there for you when you need it and is willing to accept this important role.

WHAT IF MY AGENT IS NOT AVAILABLE OR IS UNWILLING TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR ME?

If the person who is your first choice is unable to carry out this role when the time comes, you can choose one or more successor agents. Your successor agents function as back-up agents to your first choice agent and may act only one at a time and in the order you list them.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DO NOT CHOOSE A HEALTH CARE AGENT?

If you become unable to make your own health care decisions and have not named an agent in writing, your physician and other health care providers will ask a family member, friend, or guardian to make decisions for you. In Illinois, a law directs which of these individuals will be consulted. In that law, each of these individuals is called a "surrogate."

There are reasons why you may want to name an agent rather than rely on a surrogate:

- (i) The person or people listed by this law may not be who you would want to make decisions for you.
- (ii) Some family members or friends might not be able or willing to make decisions as you would want them to.
- (iii) Family members and friends may disagree with one another about the best decisions.
- (iv) Under some circumstances, a surrogate may not be able to make the same kinds of decisions that an agent can make.

WHAT IF THERE IS NO ONE AVAILABLE WHOM I TRUST TO BE MY AGENT?

In this situation, it is especially important to talk to your physician and other health care providers and create written guidance about what you want or do not want, in case you are ever critically ill and cannot express your own wishes.

You can complete a living will. You can also write your wishes down and/or discuss them with your physician or other health care provider and ask him or her to write it down in your chart. You might also want to use written or on-line resources to guide you through this process.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS FORM ONCE I COMPLETE IT?

Follow these instructions after you have completed the form:

- (i) Sign the form in front of a witness. See the form for a list of who can and cannot witness it.
- (ii) Ask the witness to sign it, too.
- (iii) There is no need to have the form notarized.
- (iv) Give a copy to your agent and to each of your successor agents.
- (v) Give another copy to your physician.

- (vi) Take a copy with you when you go to the hospital.
- (vii) Show it to your family and friends and others who care for you.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

You may change your mind at any time. If you do, tell someone who is at least 18 years old that you have changed your mind, and/or destroy your document and any copies. If you wish, fill out a new form and make sure everyone you gave the old form to has a copy of the new one, including, but not limited to, your agents and your physicians.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO USE THIS FORM?

In the event you do not want to use the Illinois statutory form provided here, any document you complete must be executed by you, designate an agent authorized by law to serve as an agent, and state the agent's powers, but it need not be witnessed or conform in any other respect to the statutory health care power.

If you have questions about the use of any form, you may want to consult your physician, other health care provider, and/or an attorney.

My Power of Attorney for Health Care

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY REVOKES ALL PREVIOUS POWERS OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE. (You must sign this form and a witness must also sign it before it is valid)

My name: _____
My address: _____

I WANT THE FOLLOWING PERSON TO BE MY HEALTH CARE AGENT (an agent is your personal representative under state and federal law, but your physician or health care provider cannot be designated as your agent):

Agent name: _____
Agent address: _____
Agent phone number: _____

SUCCESSOR HEALTH CARE AGENT(S) (optional):

If the agent I selected is unable or does not want to make health care decisions for me, then I request the person(s) I name below to be my successor health care agent(s). Only one person at a time can serve as my agent (add another page if you want to add more successor agent names):

Agent name: _____
Agent address: _____
Agent phone number: _____

Agent name: _____
Agent address: _____
Agent phone number: _____

MY AGENT CAN MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR ME, INCLUDING:

- (i) Deciding to accept, withdraw or decline treatment for any physical or mental condition of mine, including life-and-death decisions.
- (ii) Agreeing to admit me to or discharge me from any hospital, home, or other institution, including a mental health facility.
- (iii) Having complete access to my medical and mental health records, and sharing them with others as needed, including after I die.
- (iv) Carrying out the plans I have already made, or, if I have not done so, making decisions about my body or remains, including organ, tissue or body donation, autopsy, cremation, and burial.

The above grant of power is intended to be as broad as possible so that your agent will have the authority to make any decision you could make to obtain or terminate any type of health care, including withdrawal of nutrition and hydration and other life-sustaining measures.

I AUTHORIZE MY AGENT TO

(please check any one box):

_____ Make decisions for me only when I cannot make them for myself. The physician(s) taking care of me will determine when I lack this ability.

(If no box is checked, then the box above shall be implemented.)

OR

_____ Make decisions for me starting now and continuing after I am no longer able to make them for myself. While I am still able to make my own decisions, I can still do so if I want to.

The subject of life-sustaining treatment is of particular importance. Life-sustaining treatments may include tube feedings or fluids through a tube, breathing machines, and CPR. In general, in making decisions concerning life-sustaining treatment, your agent is instructed to consider the relief of suffering, the quality as well as the possible extension of your life, and your previously expressed wishes. Your agent will weigh the burdens versus benefits of proposed treatments in making decisions on your behalf.

Additional statements concerning the withholding or removal of life-sustaining treatment are described below. These can serve as a guide for your agent when making decisions for you. Ask your physician or health care provider if you have any questions about these statements.

SELECT ONLY ONE STATEMENT BELOW THAT BEST EXPRESSES YOUR WISHES

(optional):

_____ The quality of my life is more important than the length of my life. If I am unconscious and my attending physician believes, in accordance with reasonable medical standards, that I will not wake up or recover my ability to think, communicate with my family and friends, and experience my surroundings, I do not want treatments to prolong my life.

_____ Staying alive is more important to me, no matter how sick I am, how much I am suffering, the cost of the procedures, or how unlikely my chances for recovery are. I want my life to be prolonged to the greatest extent possible in accordance with reasonable medical standards.

MY AGENT'S ADDITIONAL POWERS:

SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS TO MY AGENT'S DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The above grant of power is intended to be as broad as possible so that your agent will have the authority to make any decision you could make to obtain or terminate any type of health care. If you wish to limit the scope of your agent's powers or prescribe special rules or limit the power to authorize autopsy or dispose of remains, you may do so specifically in this form.

My signature: _____

Today's date: _____

HAVE YOUR WITNESS AGREE TO WHAT IS WRITTEN BELOW, AND THEN COMPLETE THE SIGNATURE PORTION:

I am at least 18 years old. (check one of the options below):

- I saw the principal sign this document, or
- the principal told me that the signature or mark on the principal signature line is his or hers.

I am not the agent or successor agent(s) named in this document. I am not related to the principal, the agent, or the successor agent(s) by blood, marriage, or adoption. I am not the principal's physician, mental health service provider, or a relative of one of those individuals. I am not an owner or operator (or the relative of an owner or operator) of the health care facility where the principal is a patient or resident.

Witness Signature

Witness Printed Name

Witness Street Address

Witness City and State

Today's Date