



Michigan Power of Attorney for Health Care

Advocate Information

You have agreed to be an Advocate, or are thinking about being a Health Care Advocate for _____. This information will help you understand the purpose and duties of a Health Care Advocate.

Why is a Power of Attorney for Health Care Advocate needed?

In the event that a person becomes unable to make their own health care decisions, it is important that someone knows their wishes, goals, values and beliefs and is willing to make health care decisions for them.

What kinds of decisions do Health Care Advocates make?

- Approving surgeries and procedures
- Starting or stopping chemotherapy or radiation
- Starting or stopping certain medications
- Requesting a do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order
- Starting or stopping kidney dialysis or blood transfusions
- Starting or stopping a breathing machine
- Starting or stopping feeding tubes
- Choosing where care is provided
- Arranging for organ donation or autopsy
- Contacting a person to provide spiritual support
- Approving release of medical records

How will I know what decisions to make?

Having ongoing discussions with the person about the care decisions they would make in different states of health will help you.

The person's health care providers should also be able to help you understand the risks and benefits of different treatments and the options for care.

Call (906)786-5707 or
(906)786-4456 to learn
more about becoming a
Health Care Advocate.



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Do I involve the family and others in making care decisions?

Early on, it is usually helpful to have the person share their thoughts about their wishes for end-of-life care with all of their close family members and friends. It is also helpful for the family to know that you are the Health Care Advocate.

Later on, if difficult decisions for which you are responsible need to be made at the end of the person's life, you may discuss them with other family members, a spiritual guide, ethicist or a lawyer. However, it is good to remember that your goal is to make the decisions you believe the person would have wanted.