

Winona Health

Instructions for Completing a Healthcare Directive

Overview

The power of attorney for healthcare form is a legal document, developed to meet the legal requirements for Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. This document provides a way for a person to create a power of attorney for healthcare that will meet the basic requirements for these states.

This power of attorney for healthcare form allows you to appoint another person and alternate persons as a healthcare agent. This document gives your healthcare agent authority to make your decisions only when you have been determined incapacitated by your physician(s) to make your own healthcare decisions. It does not give your healthcare agent any authority to make your financial or other business decisions. In addition, it does not give your healthcare agent authority to make certain decisions about your mental health treatment.

Before completing this power of attorney for healthcare form, take time to read it carefully. It is also very important that you discuss your views, values, and this document with your healthcare agent(s). If you do not closely involve your healthcare agent(s) and you do not make a clear plan together, your views and values may not be fully respected because they will not be understood.

How to Complete This Document

This power of attorney for healthcare form is divided into four parts.

- Part I – Appointing a Healthcare Agent
- Part II – Authority of the Healthcare Agent
- Part III – Statement of Directives, Desires, Special Provisions or Limitations
- Part IV – Making the Document Legal

Important Tips for Healthcare Directives

- Keep copies of Healthcare Directives:
 - With healthcare providers: physicians, hospitals, home care, hospice
 - With your healthcare agent(s)
- DO NOT keep your Healthcare Directive in a safe deposit box where it would not be available in an emergency.
- You can change your wishes by completing a new Healthcare Directive as long as you are able to make and communicate your own healthcare decisions.
- Review your Healthcare Directive on a regular basis especially when there are changes in:
 - Your health status
 - The availability of individuals named as healthcare agent or alternate agents
- Indicate you have a Healthcare Directive on your driver's license or other sources of identification in your wallet or billfold. Contact your local Department of Motor Vehicle for more information.
- Don't confuse a Healthcare Directive with Estate Planning tools such as a Will or Power of Attorney. These are all separate documents.
- Law regarding advance directives are not the same in all fifty states in the U.S. If you spend a great deal of time in another state, or move to another state, be sure to understand the laws.