

Power of Attorney for Health Care: Key Terms

These are some terms you'll find when going through your final Power of Attorney for Health Care document. Feel free to reference this throughout and after you fill out the form.

Who is part of this document?

Principal

The person who is filling out the Power of Attorney form – you. The **Principal** will authorize the Agent to make certain decisions for them at a specified time.

Agent

The person that the Power of Attorney document gives power to – the person you trust to follow your instructions. The **Agent** will have the power to make decisions on the **Principal's** behalf under the conditions of the Power of Attorney document.

Witness

An adult who is unrelated to the people who are a part of the power of attorney document (the **Principal** and the **Agent**). They cannot be medical providers, blood or married relatives, or the people giving or receiving power via the Power of Attorney document.

Conditions that Matter for a POAHC

Incapacity

When a person is unable to understand or communicate decisions well enough to manage their own choices. This could happen because of an illness, injury, or other condition that affects decision making.

Terminal Condition

An incurable condition caused by injury or illness that will cause death in the near future, so that life-sustaining procedures only prolong the dying process.

Persistent Vegetative State

This is an incurable condition in which one loses the ability to think, speak, and move purposefully, but the heartbeat and breathing continue.

REMEMBER!

Filling out a POAHC now can save you and your loved ones trouble in the future!

Types of Care

Respite care

Short term assistance from a Nursing Home for 28 days or less for the purpose of giving a break to the family member or who normally provides daily care.

Recuperative Care

Care in a nursing home provided for 90 days or less for a resident whose doctor has certified that they are recovering from an illness or medical treatment.

Skilled Nursing Care

Care services provided by a nurse to a patient under a doctor's orders when one of these things happen:

1. The health issue is complex enough to require a nurse's care.
2. Medical improvement of the patient is not possible, but services are needed to prevent deterioration of the patient's condition or to sustain current capacities of the patient.
3. Medical complications that even non-health services would require the assistance of a licensed nurse.

