

Keeping Your POA Accurate

When to Review and Update

When Should I Update My POA? (“The 5 Ds”)

Life changes can mean that your Power of Attorney document is out of date

It is wise to review your POAs once a year and to update it if you have any major life changes. Events can include:

- Distance** If you or your agent move to another state
- Diagnosis** A significant medical diagnosis
- Divorce** If your former spouse was your agent, you may want to appoint a new one
- Decline** If you or your agent experiences a decline in capacity or ability to manage affairs
- Death** If your designated agent becomes incapacitated or dies

How Do I Update or Make Changes to My POA?

You can make a new POA anytime, following the same directions. The most recent POA that is valid (signed) will be the one that the agent and health care team will follow.

If I change my POA, where should I store copies?

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If I change my POA, where should I store copies?

You should keep the original somewhere safe that the agent has access to. For example, a fire proof safe in your home. Additionally, you should give copies of any new or updated POA to the following people:

- Agent
- Back-up Agent
- Health Clinic/System

Recommended:

- Family Member
- Friend

Can I Cancel (“Revoke”) A POA, and How Do I Do It?

You can cancel a POA by destroying the document and letting anyone who has been acting under that POA know about the change.

For example, if you do not want a POA anymore, tell your health clinic or key health provider that your POA is not active anymore.

If you are unclear what these terms mean, check out our definition Tune-Up Tip!

Get started today!

