



HEALTHCARE POWER OF ATTORNEY

WHEN YOU NEED MEDICAL CARE, YOUR DOCTOR IS REQUIRED TO GET YOUR PERMISSION BEFORE BEGINNING TREATMENT.

But that permission can be difficult or even impossible to get if you are incapacitated or unconscious. Fortunately, Iowa law allows you to name an agent to make medical decisions on your behalf through a document called a Healthcare Power of Attorney.

A Healthcare Power of Attorney allows you to give someone you trust the power to consent, refuse consent, or withdraw consent to healthcare.

Healthcare means any treatment, procedure, or service that is intended to monitor, maintain, diagnose, or treat your physical or mental condi-

tion. So, once again, this person holds a lot of responsibility and should be someone you trust.

Sometimes the easiest way to choose your healthcare agent is to ask: “Who do I trust with my life?” Some factors to consider include:

- Who can be easily reached when needed?
- Who will follow your wishes?
- What does your family say?
- Do you have a living will?

A Healthcare Power of Attorney ends at your death, and you can revoke or change it at any time. However, it will be durable, so that it stays in effect even if you are incapacitated.