

Ohio Health Advance Directives Forms

Definitions: Words & Terms

Agent

Your Agent is the trusted adult you pick to make health care decisions for you any time you cannot make a health care decision for yourself. You should pick someone who will follow your wishes, be able to handle stressful situations and understand medical information from your doctors.

Alternate Health Care Power of Attorney

An Alternate Health Care Power of Attorney is a backup Agent. Sometimes your Agent is not immediately available or is no longer willing or able to help when the time comes to make a decision about your health care. You can name up to two backup Agents. A backup Agent or Alternate Health Care Power of Attorney can make all the same health care decisions for you as the first Agent or Health Care Power of Attorney when the first Agent or Health Care Power of Attorney is not able to.

Guardian

A Guardian is someone appointed by a probate court to handle decisions for you about your day to day living and/or manage your money. There are two types of Guardians - guardian of the person and guardian of the estate.

Guardian of the Person

A guardian of the person can make day-to-day decisions for you such as decisions about your food, clothing and where you live. You may nominate the person you have named to be your Health Care Agent, to be your guardian of the person, or you may nominate someone else.

Alternate Guardian of the Person

Sometimes, the person you nominate to be your Guardian of the Person is no longer willing or able to make decisions for you. An Alternate Guardian of the Person is a backup Guardian of the Person. A backup or Alternate Guardian of the Person can make all the same decisions for you as the first Guardian of the Person.

Guardian of the Estate

A Guardian of the Estate can manage your money for you. You may nominate the person you have named to be your Health Care Agent to be your Guardian of the Estate or you may nominate someone else.

Alternate Guardian of the Estate

Sometimes, the person you nominate to be your Guardian of the Estate is no longer willing or able to make decisions for you. An Alternate Guardian of the Estate is a backup Guardian of the Estate. A backup or Alternate Guardian of the Estate can make all the same decisions for you as the first Guardian of the Estate.

Living Will Contacts

A Living Will allows you to name persons you would like your doctor to notify if you are terminally ill and unable to make your own health care decisions or permanently unconscious and there is no reasonable possibility that you will regain the ability to make your own health care decisions. You do not need to name anyone. If you do not name someone, the law

requires your doctor to try to notify one of the following persons: your guardian, your spouse, your adult children who are available, your parents or a majority of your adult siblings who are available.