

## WHAT TO DO AFTER SIGNING YOUR POWER OF ATTORNEY DOCUMENTS

- \* **Obtain the signatures of your designated agents**, and consider providing them with a copy of the Power of Attorney (POA) after all your agents have signed.
- \* In your Medical POA, write specific directions with regard to any aspect of your health care and attach it to the original POA (“Statement of Special Desires”). Complete any questions asked in the document.
- \* Have your designated agents read the “Agent’s Duties” provisions in your Financial Power of Attorney document.
- \* For your Medical Power of Attorney, file a copy containing all agents’ signatures, (and your Statement of Special Desires referenced above, if any) with your provider for your medical record. Consider making a consult appointment with your primary care or specialty physician to discuss you’re the wishes expressed in this document.
- \* Provide a copy of your Medical Power of Attorney to an Assisted Living, Senior Community, or Nursing Home if you reside there.
- \* Periodically discuss with your Medical Power of Attorney agents any thoughts or change in directions you have with regard to your health and end of life care.
- \* Always retain the original of your Power of Attorney document, which should contain all agents’ signatures. Whomever you provide one to can make a photocopy of the document, which has the same force and effect as an original.
- \* If you don’t provide your agents or children with a copy of your document, let them know where to find it (ex: home safe, safe deposit box at the bank, etc.).
- \* Create a Note on your cell phone, or add “Emergency Contacts” (with name, address, and telephone number of your designated Agents (or if you are more old fashioned make a laminated “in case of emergency” card for your purse or wallet) containing the following information:
  1. Your name, date of birth, address, and telephone number.
  2. Your emergency medical contact person or people, and designated Health Care Power of Attorney Agents if different, including their telephone numbers.
  3. Contact information for your primary or specialty physician.
  4. Location of your Medical Power of Attorney.
- \* Review the provisions of your Power of Attorney documents occasionally. If you want to change its terms, or designate new agents, you must sign a new document.
- \* Check in with your elder law or estate planning attorney every 3-5 years because Financial and Health Care Powers of Attorney should be periodically updated to making the terms more comprehensive, given that the world is growing increasingly more complex.