

## **What to do if you are Appointed as Power of Attorney for Health Care**

The following is an essential checklist to be used in the event you are appointed as a Power of Attorney for Health Care. Any legally binding action should only be taken after consultation with qualified counsel.

### **1. Read the Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will.**

Determine the general scope of authority and any specific instructions. Review the sections titled ***Definitions and Authority*** and ***Limitations on Authority***. Are there additions, limitations, or special instructions contained in the documents?

### **2. Meet with the Various Health Care Providers.**

Determine the medical situation, prognosis, and medical options.

### **3. Consult with the Family Doctor.**

Emergency medical professionals and specialists may not have a complete medical history. Consult with the family doctor who will likely have the best medical history and perspective on treatment options.

### **4. Consult with Family Members.**

While you have the legal authority to act, it is important to consult with family members. Provide them with any medical information they may not have access to and inform them of your decision making process.

### **5. Make the Best Medical Decision on Behalf of the Principal Based on your Understand of His/Her Wishes.**

The legal standard is defined as: what would a prudent person decide given the facts and circumstances presented based on the Principal's intent and instructions contained in the Power of Attorney for Health Care and Living Will?

I hope this helps you with your retirement planning, estate planning, tax planning, and financial planning journey. Let me know if I can be of assistance. I welcome the opportunity to be a part of your team.

John B. Cornetet