

## Healthcare Power of Attorney Duties

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Any legally binding action should only be taken after consultation with qualified counsel. Feel free to call and discuss.

### **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 your decision-making process.

### **5. Make the Best Medical Decision on Behalf of the Principal Based on Your Understanding of His/Her Wishes:**

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

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