

TEN REASONS TO COMPLETE A POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

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1. If you don't complete a power of attorney for health care, no one can automatically make health care decisions for you in the event that you lose your ability to do so.
2. Completing a power of attorney for health care lets **YOU** select, ahead of time, the individual **YOU** want to make health care decisions for you in the event that you lose your ability to make decisions.
3. Completing a power of attorney for health care lets **YOU** select, ahead of time, the health care or health care providers **YOU** do or don't want.
4. Completing a power of attorney for health care is a gift to your family and friends because they won't be left wondering who you would want to make decisions for you and what you would want.
5. Completing a power of attorney for health care means decisions will be made faster for you, rather than having to wait for a court to appoint a guardian to make decisions.
6. Completing a power of attorney for health care will most likely avoid the need for guardianship. Avoiding a guardianship is important—guardianships can be expensive, time-consuming, and emotionally draining on families.
7. The agent you name in a power of attorney for health care to make decisions for you has more flexibility and ultimately more freedom than a guardian.
8. Completing a power of attorney for health care helps avoid family fights and disagreements. In completing the document, you specify who you want as your agent and can also specify what you want and when you want it. Without one, family members are left to guess—or pay lawyers to have a court decide.



9. Completing a power of attorney for health care is free if you use the state form. If you don't complete a power of attorney for health care and a guardianship is later needed, there may be significant costs.

10. The state form is easy to obtain. To get the form, instructions, and suggestions, contact the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., at 1-855-409-9410, guardian@gwaar.org, or go to www.gwaar.org. You may also go to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Website: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives/index.htm>.

QUESTIONS? Call the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center at 1-855-409-9410 or email at guardian@gwaar.org.

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