

Role of a Healthcare Agent

An agent, selected by you, has the authority to make any and all health care decisions you would make if you were able to make them for yourself. Unless you limit your health care agent's authority, he or she will be able to make any treatment decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself.

Your agent is responsible for:

- ❖ Choosing your doctor/other health care provider and where you will receive your care.
- ❖ Speaking with your health care team on your condition and treatment options.
- ❖ Reviewing your medical record and authorizing its release when needed.
- ❖ Accepting or refusing all medical treatments, including artificial nutrition and hydration and resuscitation (CPR) attempts.
- ❖ Consenting to tissue and organ donation, authorizing an autopsy and arranging for disposition of the remains after death.
- ❖ Your health care agent is NOT responsible for costs of your treatments or your funeral, or for managing your finances (unless you also give him/her financial power of attorney).
- ❖ You should discuss these matters with your agent and alternate so he/she knows how to decide for you. The more you talk this over with your agent, the better he/she will be able to make decisions on your behalf.

Who cannot be your healthcare agent?

- ❖ An owner or operator of a community care facility where you are receiving care.
- ❖ Your supervising health care provider or an employee of the health care institution where you are receiving care unless he/she is related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or you are co-workers.
- ❖ Someone whom you "as the principal" wish to "disqualify" in writing.