

MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Similar to the statutory durable power of attorney, the medical power of attorney is a written document in which an agent is appointed to make *medical* decisions on behalf of the principal upon incapacitation. Without a Medical Power of Attorney, the family or friends of an incapacitated person may have to seek an appointment of a guardian to make these decisions. In this respect, the medical power of attorney is not only beneficial in that it enables the agent to make medical decisions on behalf of the principal, but its effectiveness can circumvent the need for the appointment of a Guardian of the principal's *person* - the proceedings of which can be a considerable financial and administrative burden.