

## **Medical Power of Attorney**

This legal document allows you to name an agent and grant that agent the authority to make your health care decisions for you. Your agent could make any decisions that you could make if you had the ability. This includes the power to authorize withholding or discontinuing life-sustaining procedures and the power to authorize the giving or withholding of mental health treatment.

The power is effective only when (and if) your physician or physicians determine in writing that you lack sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate decisions relating to your health care. Your agent retains the power only so long as you are incapacitated.

The document may include guidelines or directions relating to your health care as you deem important. A health care power of attorney cannot confer any power or authority with respect to your property or financial affairs. This power can be granted only by a separate Power of Attorney.