



Sharing Your Wishes™



To:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as my health care agent to speak for me if I am unable to speak for myself. This is an important responsibility and I want you to understand what you may need to do for me.

What is a health care agent?

A health care agent is a person who has the legal authority in New York State to make health decisions for me if I can no longer do this myself. I may also select an alternate agent who can take over if you are not available or not able to serve in this role.

What are your responsibilities as my health care agent?

When my doctors agree that I am not able to make decisions for myself, you will be asked to assume this responsibility. As my agent you will have access to my medical information and records to help you make informed care decisions. You will have authority to make all health care decisions, unless I limit your authority, or unless a court order overrides the decision. Being my agent does not mean that you will have financial responsibility for my care.

You will have the authority to decide to use or remove treatments that may extend my life, and whether I will have certain medical tests, treatments, or surgeries.

How long will you be my health care agent?

You will be my agent until I am once again able to make decisions for myself, or until my death, unless I decide to select someone else to serve in this role.

How should you prepare for this responsibility?

The most important thing for you to do is have conversations with me about the things that are important to me. By knowing what is important to me, you will know the kinds of decisions I want you to make for me. You will be my spokesperson and my advocate. The more you know about what is important to me, the easier your job will be when you have to make decisions for me.

Thank you for being my health care agent.

For more information about “Sharing Your Wishes,” please contact us at:

Allegany County : Community Partnership on Aging : (585) 593-5223

Cayuga County : Human Services Coalition of Cayuga County : (315) 253-1102

Erie County : Coalition for Health Care Decision-Making : (716) 686-8070

Genesee County : Long Term Care Task Force : (585) 343-1611

Niagara County : Niagara Caregivers Network : (716) 285-8224

Tompkins County : Health Planning Council of the Human Services Coalition : (607) 273-8686



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