



About Completing Your Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

You have decided to choose someone to be your representative through a ***durable power of attorney for health care***. Since this ***advance directive*** is a legal document, it is important that you understand exactly what you are signing. These instructions will help you do that.

This form was developed by legal counsel for Saint Vincent Health Center to meet the requirements of Pennsylvania law regarding *advance directives*.

Completing the *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care*

1. It is your choice to name someone to be your health care representative.
 - * Check the first box if you want a representative.
 - * Read the paragraph.
 - * Then make the box or boxes that match what you want this person to be able to do for you.
 - * If you do not want a representative, please check the last box.
2. **Fill in the name, address, and phone number of the person you wish to make decisions** for you if, and when, you can no longer make them for yourself. Think of an alternative or substitute and fill in that line, too.
3. The *durable power of attorney for health care* needs to be **dated with the current day, month, and year**.
4. You are the “declarant” since you are declaring, or saying, what you want done. **Please sign and fill in the information that is asked for.**
5. In order for your *durable power of attorney for health care* to be valid, **you must have the form witnessed and signed by two people who are at least 18 years old**. If you complete the forms while you are a patient at Saint Vincent Health Center, and don’t have available witnesses of your own (friends or family), the chaplain or a nursing supervisor may sign your *durable power of attorney for health care*. According to policy, they are the only associates of the hospital who can do so.

Copies of your *durable power of attorney for health care* should be given to your doctor, nursing home, person you have appointed as durable power of attorney, other health care providers, your witnesses, and close family members.

Remember, your *durable power of attorney for health care* can be changed at any time.

Each time you enter a health care facility you will be asked if you have *advance directives*. It’s the law! If you have made any changes to your *advance directives*, please bring a copy of the new form with you. Be sure to tell anyone to whom you had given a copy.