

NEW MEXICO DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This power of attorney authorizes another person (your agent) to make decisions concerning your property for you (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions and act with respect to your property (including your money) whether or not you are able to act for yourself. The meaning of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act.

This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to make health care decisions for you.

You should select someone you trust to serve as your agent. Unless you specify otherwise, generally the agent's authority will continue until you die or revoke the power of attorney or the agent resigns or is unable to act for you.

Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

This form provides for designation of one agent. If you wish to name more than one agent, you may name a co-agent in the Special Instructions. Co-agents are not required to act together unless you include that requirement in the Special Instructions.

If your agent is unable or unwilling to act for you, your power of attorney will end unless you have named a successor agent. You may also name a second successor agent.

This power of attorney becomes effective immediately unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

If you have questions about the power of attorney or the authority you are granting to your agent, you should seek legal advice before signing this form.

DESIGNATION OF AGENT

I, _____, name the following person as my agent:

Name of Agent: _____

Agent's Address: _____, _____, _____

Agent's Telephone Number: _____

DESIGNATION OF SUCCESSOR AGENT(S) (OPTIONAL)

If my agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my successor agent:

Name of Successor Agent:
Successor Agent's Address:
Successor Agent's Telephone Number:

If my successor agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my second successor agent:

Name of Second Successor Agent:
Second Successor Agent's Address:
Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number:

GRANT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY

I grant my agent and any successor agent general authority to act for me with respect to the following subjects as defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act:

(INITIAL each subject you want to include in the agent's general authority. If you wish to grant general authority over all of the subjects, you may initial "All Preceding Subjects" instead of initialing each subject.)

- [] ____ (A) Real Property
- [] ____ (B) Tangible Personal Property
- [] ____ (C) Stocks and Bonds
- [] ____ (D) Commodities and Options
- [] ____ (E) Banks and Other Financial Institutions
- [] ____ (F) Operation of Entity or Business
- [] ____ (G) Insurance and Annuities
- [] ____ (H) Estates, Trusts, and Other Beneficial Interests
- [] ____ (I) Claims and Litigation
- [] ____ (J) Personal and Family Maintenance
- [] ____ (K) Benefits from Governmental Programs or Civil or Military Service
- [] ____ (L) Retirement Plans
- [] ____ (M) Taxes

[] _____ (N) All Preceding Subjects

GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)

My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED the specific authority listed below:

(CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your death. INITIAL only the specific authority you WANT to give your agent.)

[] _____ (A) Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an *inter vivos* trust

[] _____ (B) Make a gift, subject to the limitations of Section 217 of the Uniform Power of Attorney Act and any special instructions in this power of attorney

[] _____ (C) Create or change rights of survivorship

[] _____ (D) Create or change a beneficiary designation

[] _____ (E) Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney

[] _____ (F) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan

[] _____ (G) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate

[] _____ (H) Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a power of appointment

LIMITATION ON AGENT'S AUTHORITY

An agent that is not my ancestor, spouse or descendant MAY NOT use my property to benefit the agent or a person to whom the agent owes an obligation of support unless I have included that authority in the Special Instructions.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)

You may give special instructions on the following lines:

EFFECTIVE DATE

This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I have stated otherwise in the Special Instructions.

TERMINATION

This power of attorney shall not be affected by my subsequent disability or incapacity, or lapse of time.

NOMINATION OF CONSERVATOR OR GUARDIAN (OPTIONAL)

If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a conservator or guardian of my estate or guardian of my person, I nominate the following person(s) for appointment:

Name of Nominee for conservator of my estate: _____
Nominee's Address: _____, _____, _____
Nominee's Telephone Number: _____

Name of Nominee for guardian of my person: _____
Nominee's Address: _____, _____, _____
Nominee's Telephone Number: _____

RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY

Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the validity of this power of attorney or a copy of it unless that person knows it has terminated or is invalid.

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Your Name Printed: _____
Your Address: _____, _____, _____
Your Telephone Number: _____

State of _____
County of _____

This instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ (Date) by _____.

(Seal, if any)

Signature of notarial officer: _____

My commission expires: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AGENT

Agent's Duties

When you accept the authority granted under this power of attorney, a special legal relationship is created between you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you legal duties that continue until you resign or the power of attorney is terminated or revoked. You must:

- (1) do what you know the principal reasonably expects you to do with the principal's property or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, act in the principal's best interest;
- (2) act in good faith;
- (3) do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power of attorney; and
- (4) disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act for the principal by writing or printing the name of the principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the following manner:

(Principal's Name) by (Your Signature) as Agent

Unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise, you must also:

- (1) act loyally for the principal's benefit;
- (2) avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act in the principal's best interest;
- (3) act with care, competence, and diligence;
- (4) keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf of the principal;
- (5) cooperate with any person that has authority to make health-care decisions for the principal to do what you know the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest; and
- (6) attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you know the plan and preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest.

Termination of Agent's Authority

You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you learn of any event that terminates this power of attorney or your authority under this power of attorney. Events that terminate a power of attorney or your authority to act under a power of attorney include:

- (1) death of the principal;
- (2) the principal's revocation of the power of attorney or your authority;
- (3) the occurrence of a termination event stated in the power of attorney;
- (4) the purpose of the power of attorney is fully accomplished; or
- (5) if you are married to the principal, a legal action is filed with a court to end your marriage, or for your legal separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state that such an action will not terminate your authority.

Liability of Agent

The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in the Uniform Statutory Form Power of Attorney Act. If you violate the Uniform Statutory Form Power of Attorney Act or act outside the authority granted, you may be liable for any damages caused by your violation.

If there is anything about this document or your duties that you do not understand, you should seek legal advice.

AGENT'S CERTIFICATION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND AGENT'S AUTHORITY

State of _____
County of _____

I, _____ (Name of Agent), certify under penalty of perjury that _____ (Name of Principal) granted me authority as an agent or successor agent in a power of attorney dated _____.

I, further certify that to my knowledge:

(1) the Principal is alive and has not revoked the Power of Attorney or my authority to act under the Power of Attorney and the Power of Attorney and my authority to act under the Power of Attorney have not terminated;

(2) if the Power of Attorney was drafted to become effective upon the happening of an event or contingency, the event or contingency has occurred;

(3) if I was named as a successor agent, the prior agent is no longer able or willing to serve; and

(4) _____
_____ (Insert other relevant statements)

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF AGENT

Agent's Signature _____ Date _____

Agent's Name Printed: _____

Agent's Address: _____, _____, _____, _____

Agent's Telephone Number: _____

This document was acknowledged before me on _____ (Date), by _____ (Name of Agent).

Signature of notarial officer: _____
(Seal, if any)

My commission expires: _____

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GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

WHAT IS A POWER OF ATTORNEY?

A Power of Attorney is a written document that officially recognizes a legally binding relationship between two parties-- a Principal and an Agent. The Agent is given power to manage the personal, business, or legal affairs of the Principal. Further, the Agent has a fiduciary duty to act in the Principal's best financial interest and in accordance with their wishes.

A simple Power of Attorney will identify the following basic elements:

- Agent(s): someone responsible and trusted to act on another person's behalf
- Principal: the person wanting assistance with personal, business, or legal matters
- Grant of Authority: the Agent has general or specific authority to take certain actions
- Effective Date: when the Power of Attorney begins, usually immediately
- Signatures: the Principal and a Notary must sign the Power of Attorney

WHEN IS IT NEEDED?

Power of Attorneys or POAs are commonly used when someone wants the peace of mind that their financial or health decisions will be made by someone they trust.

You may need a Power of Attorney if you are:

- Over the age of 18 years old
- Military personnel being deployed overseas
- Traveling abroad for an extended period of time
- Diagnosed with a chronic condition or life threatening illness
- Growing wiser and older but concerned about your current health
- Married and want your spouse to have legal authority over property you own
- Engaged in a high risk profession (i.e. emergency firefighter or member of police force)

WHAT KIND OF GENERAL POWERS CAN YOU GIVE YOUR AGENT?

Some of the general powers you can grant to your Agent include managing the following: real property, tangible personal property, stocks and bonds, commodities and options, banks and other financial institutions, insurance, estates and trusts, and operation of businesses.

WHEN SHOULD A POWER OF ATTORNEY BEGIN?

Depending on your circumstances, you may want your Agent to begin acting on your behalf immediately (i.e. Durable Power of Attorney) or later (i.e. Springing Power of Attorney).

WHEN DOES A POWER OF ATTORNEY END?

A conventional or ordinary Power of Attorney ends when you become incapacitated. In contrast, a Durable Power of Attorney allows the Agent to continue acting on behalf of the Principal even when they become incapacitated.

WHAT KIND OF MATTERS CAN A POWER OF ATTORNEY CONTROL?

A Power of Attorney can be used to handle non-medical matters (i.e. Financial Power of Attorney) or health care decisions (i.e. Health Care Power of Attorney). Most individuals have a separate Power of Attorney for general matters and health care issues.

Many states, however, combine the a Living Will and Power of Attorney into one "advance directive" form. A Power of Attorney for Health Care allows you to name your health agent, someone who will make health decisions for you if you cannot. Your health care agent will also ensure that your health care providers give you the care you wish to receive. You can also require that your health care agent communicate in any manner with you about any specific proposed health care. For example, you may still be able to communicate by blinking your eyes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT HAVE A POWER OF ATTORNEY?

Without a Power of Attorney, even if you have a spouse, the court may need to step in and appoint a guardian or conservator for you if you ever become incapacitated. The process of appointing a guardian is costly and requires the guardian to formally report your situation to the court each year. CNN Money estimates that the process of obtaining a court appointed guardian exceeds \$1,000. Instead, a Power of Attorney allows you to take back control and proactively choose who YOU want to represent your best interests.