

**BENEFITS OF ADVANCE DIRECTIVES
AND POWER OF ATTORNEYS**

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

-Appoints an agent to make medical decisions on your behalf should you be incapacitated and unable to do so

-Appoints an alternate to the agent

-Gives clear directions as to life support equipment if close to death, permanently unconscious, have an advanced progressive illness, or have extraordinary suffering

-Gives clear directions as to tube feeding if close to death, permanently unconscious, have an advanced progressive illness, or have extraordinary suffering

NO ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

No person clearly authorized to make medical decisions on your behalf

Would probably be spouse unless spouse's authority is challenged by other person such as child, other relative

Unclear as to what you would want if you could make a decision
NO ACTION TAKEN

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NO ACTION TAKEN

GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

Gives specific authority to an agent of your choice to make decision for you if you are incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself

Decisions encompass the following:

Handle property, including buying, selling and managing

Management of business

Direct employee benefits

Create trusts for care

Pay bills

Prepare tax returns

Provide for quality of life decisions, such as maintenance, recreational activities, religious activities

NO GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

NO ACTION TAKEN UNLESS COURT APPOINTS A CONSERVATOR AND GUARDIAN TO ACT FOR YOU

If a conservatorship and guardianship are set up through the probate court, the guardian and conservator must report to the court, and get authority in order to handle many financial transactions and medical decisions

Usually an attorney is required to set up the conservatorship and guardianship, as well as monitor and file reports

Court has control over who is appointed as guardian and conservator