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## Who should act as Agent under a Power of Attorney?



When selecting an agent to act under your power of attorney (POA), you should choose someone you trust to make financial, business or health care decisions consistent with your wishes. Therefore, you should talk with your agent so that he or she understands your wishes and feels comfortable with carrying them out.

Neither an attending physician nor any other health care provider of the principal can act as agent for a patient under a health care POA, but a person not administering health care to the patient may act as agent, even though that person is a physician or other health care provider.

At all times, your agent must exercise the authority granted to him or her under the POA in a manner which they believe is consistent with your intentions and desires. An agent is not legally required to exercise the powers given to him or her under the POA.

If using the statutory Illinois forms, the principal cannot appoint co-agents. Successor agents, however, may be designated in the statutory forms.

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