

Dear Client & Friend,

What if you were seriously injured, taken to a hospital and the attending doctor asked you these difficult questions, “Is there an advanced directive in place for you?” or “Is there someone with your power of attorney?” What would you say?

Having the proper papers drawn up in advance will protect your interests if you can't advocate for yourself. This Power of Attorney document helps protect the things most precious to you, especially your loved ones, your property and your investments.

What is Power of Attorney?

It is a document that gives the person or people named the power to act on your behalf. The power may be limited to a particular circumstance like closing the sale of your home or very broad in its scope to act on a variety of situations. It could be effective immediately or only upon a certain event in the future. It can give temporary, continuous or permanent authority. A power of attorney can be revoked, but most states require written notice of revocation.

Who will speak for you?

Many people choose a loved one to act on their behalf such as their spouse, child, sibling, or close friend. Some people choose their attorney or their accountant or even a bank to act for them. There are no special qualifications needed for someone to be appointed as long as they are over 18 and not otherwise incapacitated. You can appoint the same person or different people to act as your agent in any and all cases. The best choice is someone you trust implicitly with your well-being, loved ones and property.

Along with a Power of Attorney most estate and financial planners recommend you also secure a documented Will, Health Care Directive and inclusive Beneficiary Designations.

Isn't it well worth the time and cost to put in place these necessary legal protections? Before you do anything consult a lawyer who specializes in estate planning and end of life issues. Don't try to do this on your own by downloading forms from the internet! This is serious business and needs to be planned carefully. Setting them up right the first time is worth it.

If you wish, I can recommend a qualified, competent attorney to help you draw up your Power of Attorney, Will and Health Care Directive. I look forward to your call on this and all other important aspects of financial planning.

All the best,

John Butz