

### **If you had to act as a Power of Attorney, would you know what to do?**

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#### **Why is this important?**

If you were appointed as a Power of Attorney, unless you have acted as one before, chances are you would not know what is required. If you make a mistake while acting as Power of Attorney, there is potential for personal liability.

#### **What is a Power of Attorney?**

A Power of Attorney is the ability to act on another's behalf. When you have this ability, you are acting as an agent for the person who has granted you this power; also known as the "principal".

#### **When does a Power of Attorney take effect?**

This Power can be immediate, meaning you can act for the principal at all times. The alternative is for this Power to be springing, meaning you can only act for the principal if he or she is incompetent or incapacitated.

#### **How do I know if I am someone's Power of Attorney?**

In most cases, the person will ask if you would mind being their Power of Attorney. If you have named someone but have not told your agent/potential agents, it is important that you let them know.

#### **How does an agent know what to do?**

Every agent who acts as Power of Attorney should be aware of the standard duties. I have enclosed a checklist which would be a valuable resource for anyone who may have to act as an agent someday.

[Click here for Power of Attorney Duties](#)

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