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## ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

POWER OF ATTORNEY	HEALTH CARE PROXY
A legal document that authorizes someone you appoint (your “agent”) to act on your behalf regarding your <b>property, investments, insurance, taxes, and other business, personal, or financial matters.</b>	A legal document that authorizes someone you appoint (your “agent”) to make decisions regarding your <b>health and medical needs</b> , but only if you lack the capacity to express your own decisions.
In New York, you may <b>appoint one or more agents</b> to act jointly or separately. It is often wise to appoint a successor agent to act should your primary agent(s) become unavailable.	In New York, you may <b>appoint only one agent to act.</b> It is prudent to appoint an alternate agent to act should your primary agent become unavailable.
Agents are legally required to act according to <b>your instructions.</b> If there are no instructions, the agent must always act in <b>your best interests.</b>	It is critical for your health care agent to <b>understand your wishes</b> concerning your medical and health care, as it is your agent’s duty to <b>express those wishes for you when you cannot do so.</b>
If you lose the capacity to act on your own behalf, this document will likely be extremely important for <b>managing your financial affairs, and obtaining long term care</b> if needed.	Upon your loss of capacity or inability to act, this document allows your agent to <b>make medical decisions you would have made if you had capacity.</b>

CALL TO LEARN MORE!

Talk to an attorney at Lamson & Cutner, P.C., to learn more about advance directives.

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