

## Choosing the right person(s) as your agent(s) is important. Consider these questions to help you decide.

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Do they <b>meet the legal requirements</b> to be an agent? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are they at least 18 years old?</li> <li>Do they have the mental capacity to make decisions on your behalf?</li> </ul>                                                                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are they <b>willing to act</b> as your agent? Acting as an agent can be a big responsibility. You should ask your chosen person if they consent to act. You may also want to discuss whether they want to be paid for their time.                                                                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are they <b>likely to be available</b> when you need them? For example, do they live nearby? Are they in good health themselves? Will they be available long into the future? Will they be available to attend medical and legal appointments with you (should you wish they attend with you)? <sup>†</sup> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Do they know you well and <b>understand what is important to you</b> ? Are they likely to agree with your wishes and honor them? Research has shown that people with similar "understandings" or "world views" as us are more likely to be able to honor our wishes.                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you <b>trust them</b> to make decisions about your life, comfort and well-being? Will they be able to respect and honour your values and beliefs, and separate their own beliefs?                                                                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will they be <b>comfortable navigating healthcare situations</b> , talking to your healthcare providers and asking questions, weighing different options, making multiple decisions and advocating for your wishes to be followed?                                                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will they be <b>comfortable directing others</b> ? Will they be able to handle conflicting opinions between family members, friends and healthcare providers and come to a decision that reflects your wishes?                                                                                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are they <b>emotionally capable</b> of fulfilling the role? Are they comfortable navigating and talking about sensitive and difficult issues? For example, they may have to make emergency or life-changing decisions such as whether to remove life-support.                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Are they <b>organized and detail oriented</b> ? If you lose capacity to make decisions, your agent will need to complete specific forms and keep records of all decisions.                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Will they <b>collaborate well</b> with the attorney appointed on your financial matters under your Enduring Power of Attorney <sup>‡</sup> ?                                                                                                                                                                |

<sup>†</sup> A common misunderstanding is that an agent is responsible for the maker's day-to-day caregiving, transportation etc. Rather, an agent appointed under a personal directive is responsible to make health and personal decisions for you when you (the maker) lose capacity to do so.

<sup>‡</sup> An enduring power of attorney is a legal document that you make to give another person the authority to make financial decisions on your behalf.

