

**A Last Will and Testament is a legal document that expresses a person's wishes as to how their property will be distributed after their death. It also appoints a person who will manage the affairs and property until its final distribution under the supervision of the county Probate Court. The Last Will and Testament also appoints a Guardian who will care for minor children.**

**A Durable General Power of Attorney is the most commonly used document granting financial authority to another person. A power of attorney gives someone else the right to make financial decisions for you.**

**[Who will manage your financial matters if you become seriously ill, disabled, or injured and cannot handle them for yourself? Many people expect that a spouse or other family member automatically has the power to help with financial matters; but this is not true. Under Michigan law, someone must have special authority to act for another person. You accomplish this through a written document authorizing another person to act on your behalf. You must sign the document before you are incapacitated. Once you have lost the ability to understand and manage your own affairs, you can no longer authorize someone else to handle them for you].**

### ***What is a Patient Advocate Designation?***

**You have the legal right to make your own medical treatment decisions. But, suppose something happens that makes you unable to make your own medical treatment decisions? Who will speak to the doctors for you? You can choose a person to make these decisions for you by signing a legal document called a "patient advocate designation." This legal document gives the person you choose (the patient advocate) authority to make decisions for your care, custody, and medical treatment when you cannot.**

**If you become unable to make your own decisions and you don't have a patient advocate designation, the probate court may be asked to appoint a guardian to make decisions for your care, custody, and medical treatment.**