ORDER OF DECISION MAKING IN HEALTHCARE

Washington State Law RCW 7.70.065

A guardian named in a document (if applicable)

Healthcare agent

When appointed by the state.


What Happens If I Don’t Choose a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare?

Spouse or registered domestic partner

Even if separated.

Your adult children*§

Biological or formally adopted

Your parents*§

Biological or formally adopted

Your adult siblings*§

Biological or formally adopted

Your adult grandchildren*§

Who are familiar with the patient

Your adult nieces and nephews*§

Who are familiar with the patient

Your adult aunts and uncles*§

Who are familiar with the patient

A close friend‡

Must meet certain criteria, and must sign the Washington Healthcare Declaration Statement

The healthcare clinician must make reasonable efforts to locate and secure authorization from a competent person in the 1st or succeeding class and if no such person can be found they must go to the next descending priority, and cannot skip a level

* Any group that has more than one person, the group must agree to the care
† RCW indicates ‘who are familiar with the patient’
‡ RCW indicates an individual (not a group)
§ Biological or formally adopted

Adapted from Honoring Choices® Pacific Northwest | An initiative of Washington State Hospital Association and Washington State Medical Association