



Give a Voice to Your Legal/Financial Concerns

SERVING AS A HEALTH PROXY /EXECUTOR/POA/GUARDIAN

Please mark your answer next to the question.		Yes	No	Maybe	
UNDERSTANDING WHO YOU ARE					
1	Are you willing to get involved in other people's problems?				
2	Do you like to be in charge?				
3	Are you willing to be responsible?				
4	Do you feel you are capable of caring for others?				
5	Do you like to listen to what others are saying?				
6	Are you willing and do you have time to devote to another person?				
LEGAL ISSUES					
7	Are you able to understand complex legal documents?				
8	Are you prepared to make life and death decisions for another person?				
9	Are you prepared to handle lots of phone calls and paper work?				
FINANCIAL ISSUES					
10	Do you understand complex financial issues?				
11	Do you like to comparison shop and create budgets?				
YOUR SOCIAL SIDE					
12	Are you able to remain impartial and ignore others comments?				
Please add your entire Yes, No and Maybe Answers, total across here.					

If you have 9-12 Yes answers: You are an ideal candidate for health proxy/executor/POA/guardian. You are prepared to speak for the wishes of another. You should review the Legal and Financial papers of the individual to fully understand their wishes. Legal Documents should always be in accordance to the law.

If you have 5-8 Yes answers: You might consider acting as a co-proxy/co-executor. Living Wills can delineate one or more doctors must certify conditions. You may want an appointed advocate, attorney or financial advisor to assist you in making legal/financial decisions.

If you have 0-4 Yes answers: You probably should not volunteer to act as health proxy/executor/POA/guardian.

WHAT DO PATIENT ADVOCATES DO?

- REVIEWS LEGAL/FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS**
- LIAISON WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & OTHERS**
- REFERS/LIAISON WITH PROFESSIONALS**
- FIGHTS FOR YOUR RIGHTS**

DOCUMENTS YOU MAY NEED

- NYS Living Will-Health Care Proxy
- NYS Power of Attorney
- Will and/or Trusts
- Financial Statements
- Guardian Appointments

PLAN & PRIORITIZE

- What are the patient's wishes
- Make a list of the conditions under which each document will apply.
- Make a list of emotional issues to resolve.
- Number the items according to priority.
- Contact a Professional Patient Advocate and get referrals for appropriate professionals.