



Long Range Planning: Part 4

May 2020

Senior Management Services

As we at Senior Management Services have continued to serve you, we have found that many questions are about helping both you and your aging parents plan for life events and the future. In response to these questions, these articles (in a four-part series) will look at addressing what should be in place and discussed with aging loved ones.

Healthcare Power of Attorney and Living Will

Last month we discussed the importance of determining who will serve as Power of Attorney. As with the POA decision, choosing a Healthcare Power of Attorney is not to be taken lightly and should be someone that you trust and knows your medical care decisions. If you are assisting an elderly loved one in deciding who that individual should be, help them to understand that this person will be making medical decisions for them when he or she is not able to anymore.

The Healthcare Power of Attorney is usually coupled with a Living Will. This document spells out all wishes for medical care if you would be in a terminal or permanently unconscious state. It's important to note that a Living Will is not just for individuals that wish to avoid being sustained on life support. It is to declare any of your medical wishes, not just avoidance of life sustaining measures.

Lawyers usually write these in as part of a Last Will and Testament, but if you just need the Healthcare Power of Attorney (also called Healthcare Agent in Pennsylvania), you can utilize these online forms:

- [Pennsylvania; Advance Directive, Planning for Important Health Care Decisions](#)
- [FIVE WISHES](#)

These conversations may be easier for some loved ones than others. If you are serving in this role or know you have been named, it can be helpful to open up conversation with your loved one, so that they can speak into any of their wishes.

For additional information about Eldercare, please contact Quest at 1-800-364-6352.