

The Health Care Agent's Role

You have been appointed to serve as the health care agent for Cory Jack Fryling, to be in charge of carrying out his health care wishes as expressed in the *Advance Health Care Directive*.

Your Authority

As the agent, your authority to make health care decisions for Cory Jack Fryling is effective whenever he lacks the capacity to make or communicate his own health care decisions. The scope of your power to direct Cory Jack Fryling's health care is defined by the health care document listed above.

Generally, in carrying out Cory Jack Fryling's health care wishes, you will be authorized to:

- hire and fire medical personnel
- visit Cory Jack Fryling in a hospital or other medical care facility
- review and receive any information regarding his physical or mental health, including medical and hospital records
- sign any releases or other documents required to obtain this information
- sign any documents required to request, withdraw, or refuse medical treatment or to be released or transferred from a hospital or other medical facility, and
- sign any waiver or release from liability required by a hospital or physician.

The powers listed above may vary slightly from state to state. Again, it is important that you carefully read Cory Jack Fryling's health care document so that you understand the extent and limits of your authority.

Your Obligation to Follow Instructions

You must make health care decisions for Cory Jack Fryling in accordance with his health care document and any wishes he has made known to you.

If a situation arises in which you do not know Cory Jack Fryling's specific wishes, you must make the decision that you believe he would make if he were capable of doing so.

End-of-Life Decisions

Health care treatment decisions near the end of life are of particular importance. As the agent it is your job to have a clear understanding of Cory Jack Fryling's wishes and values regarding end-of-life treatment. You must also be willing to carry out these wishes even if they conflict with your own. Note that your authority as agent includes the power to authorize or consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging treatment and artificially administered food and water, which would allow him to die.

If you have any question or concerns about your role as the agent or about Cory Jack Fryling's wishes and values regarding health care, be sure to discuss them with him.