

Nevada Legal Services

Senior Law Project Digest

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Peace of Mind - Do you have a health care Power of Attorney?

If you suddenly became so ill that you were unable to make medical treatment decisions for yourself, the burden of deciding would fall to your family and loved ones. Medical technology can extend life, but the quality of that life varies for each person. Decisions about what is tolerable in life and in the dying process are personal and should be made individually before the opportunity is lost.

Advance directives, such as the Living Will and the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care have grown out of a desire to maintain individual control over one's life. These documents work by extending the right of self-determination into the future. By recording our choices now (as competent persons), we can influence healthcare decisions made for us in the future.

Completing advance directive documents can give you greater assurance that your wishes will be carried out. They also can give your family members peace of mind that they are doing as you would prefer. To learn more, call 775-758-5880.

January Calendar

- Jan. 9 – Douglas Senior Center
- Jan. 10 – Dayton Senior Center
- Jan. 11 – Silver Springs Senior Ctr.
- Jan. 12 – Churchill County Senior Center
- Jan. 13 – Fernley Senior Center
- Jan. 13 – Ask a Lawyer – Winnemucca
- Jan. 19 – Bankruptcy Education - Reno
- Jan. 24 – White Pine Senior Center
- Jan. 25 – Elko Senior Center
- Jan. 30 – POA Education/preparation - Reno

To learn more, call 775-758-5880.



Hilda Oltman, Age 92,
Reviews her POA.

Senior Legal Helpline
Toll Free: (877) 693-2163
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Common Power Of Attorney Terms

Advance Directive –A general term for legal documents (such as a Living Will or a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care) that state a person's wishes for medical treatments in case he or she is not able to make his or her own.

Agent –Someone who acts for you; the same as "attorney-in-fact."

Competent –A competent person is one who has the capacity to understand the nature and possible results of his or her medical condition and to make their own decisions regarding treatment.

Declarant –A person who is making a statement about their wishes, or a declaration, in a legal document

Execute –To follow the guidelines set down in law for completing a document so that it is legal and enforceable. This may include having witnesses attest to your signing of the document.

Principal –The person who is giving power to make health care decisions to a health care agent in the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.



Nevada Legal Services, Inc., is a non-profit organization providing free legal assistance to low-income Nevadans. Nevada Legal Services is dedicated to strengthening the community by ensuring fairness and providing equal access to justice for low-income Nevadans. We are a statewide organization serving all seventeen Nevada counties.

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