

IOWA FUNERAL — P L A N N I N G —

A MESSAGE FOR POWER OF ATTORNEY HOLDERS

We strongly suggest that, if you are the DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE (POA) for a loved one and you will remain their POA until death occurs, you contact the attorney who provided you with the POA paperwork. We suggest you request that they add the DECLARATION OF DESIGNEE FOR FINAL DISPOSITION to your POA paperwork.

It is, unfortunately, not widely known that the POA designation ends upon death. If you wish to continue to be able to handle the affairs of your loved one through any funeral or cremation services, you must be the Designee for final disposition. If you do not have the Declaration of Designee documentation, then we, your funeral or cremation provider, must work with all persons who have, or share, Next of Kin status to the loved one who passed away.

For example, you may be the POA for a person who wishes to be cremated. If that person has children, but is estranged from them, you, as POA, cannot sign our Authorization to Cremate paper work. We would have to locate the children and they would need to sign, as they would be the lawful next of kin.

If you anticipate that you, or a family member, will become the DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE for a family member or loved one, have the attorney give you the DECLARATION OF DESIGNEE FOR FINAL DISPOSITION powers in conjunction with the POA designation.

If you have further questions regarding the DECLARATION OF DESIGNEE for final disposition, we recommend that you speak to your attorney. Also, please feel free to contact any Iowa Funeral Planning location and we will answer questions to the best of our ability. However, we are not a law firm. Our goal is to assist you in creating a plan that will serve you and your family well when the time comes.

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