

# WEST VIRGINIA POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This power of attorney authorizes another person (your agent) to make decisions concerning your property for you (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions and act with respect to your property (including your money) whether or not you are able to act for yourself. The meaning of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, West Virginia Code § 39B-1-101 et seq.

This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to make health care decisions for you.

You should select someone you trust to serve as your agent. Unless you specify otherwise, generally the agent's authority will continue until you die or revoke the power of attorney or the agent resigns or is unable to act for you.

Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

This form provides for designation of one agent. If you wish to name more than one agent, you may name a co-agent in the Special Instructions. Co-agents are not required to act together unless you include that requirement in the Special Instructions.

If your agent is unable or unwilling to act for you, your power of attorney will end unless you have named a successor agent. You may also name a second successor agent.

This power of attorney becomes effective immediately unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

If you have questions about the power of attorney or the authority you are granting to your agent, you should seek legal advice before signing this form.

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## I. DESIGNATION OF AGENT

**I, the Principal, name the following person as my agent:**

**Name of Principal:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address of Principal:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number of Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

## II. DESIGNATION OF SUCCESSOR AGENT(S) (OPTIONAL)

**If my agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my successor agent:**

**Name of Successor Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address of Successor Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number of Successor Agent:** \_\_\_\_\_

## III. GRANT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY

**I grant my agent and any successor agent general authority to act for me with respect to the following subjects as defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, West Virginia Code § 39B-1-101 et seq.**

**(Check the boxes of the subjects you want to include in the agent's general authority. If you wish to grant general authority over all of the subjects you may check "All Preceding Subjects" instead of checking each subject.)**

- ☐ **Real Property**
- ☐ **Tangible Personal Property**
- ☐ **Stocks and Bonds**
- ☐ **Commodities and Options**
- ☐ **Banks and Other Financial Institutions**
- ☐ **Operation of Entity or Business**
- ☐ **Insurance and Annuities**
- ☐ **Estates, Trusts, and Other Beneficial Interests**
- ☐ **Claims and Litigation**
- ☐ **Personal and Family Maintenance**
- ☐ **Benefits from Governmental Programs or Civil or Military Service**
- ☐ **Retirement Plans**
- ☐ **Taxes**
- ☐

All Preceding Subjects

#### IV. GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)

**My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have checked the specific box below.**

**(CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your death.)**

- ☐ Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos trust
- ☐ Make a gift, subject to the limitations of the West Virginia Uniform Power of Attorney Act
- ☐ Create or change rights of survivorship
- ☐ Create or change a beneficiary designation
- ☐ Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney
- ☐ Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan
- ☐ Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to exercise

#### V. LIMITATION ON AGENT'S AUTHORITY

**An agent that is not my ancestor, spouse, or descendant MAY NOT use my property to benefit the agent or a person to whom the agent owes an obligation of support unless I have included that authority in the Special Instructions.**

#### VI. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)

**You may give special instructions on the following lines.**

**Special Instructions:**

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VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

**This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I have stated otherwise in the Special Instructions.**

VIII. NOMINATION OF CONSERVATOR OR GUARDIAN (OPTIONAL)

**If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a conservator or guardian of my estate or guardian of my person, I nominate the following person(s) for appointment:**

**Nominee's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee's Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

IX. RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY

**Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the validity of this power of attorney or a copy of it unless that person knows it has terminated or is invalid.**

X. GOVERNING LAW

**This Power of Attorney shall be governed by the laws of the State of West Virginia, specifically the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, West Virginia Code Chapter 39B.**

XI. SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

PRINCIPAL

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

On this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Principal), known to me (or satisfactorily proven) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he/she executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.

Signature of Notary Public: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

(SEAL)

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#### AGENT'S DUTIES

When you accept the authority granted under this power of attorney, a special legal relationship is created between you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you legal duties that continue until you resign or the power of attorney is terminated or revoked. You must:

- 1. Do what you know the principal reasonably expects you to do with the principal's property or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, act in the principal's best interest;**
- 2. Act in good faith;**
- 3. Do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power of attorney; and**
- 4. Disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act for the principal by writing or printing the name of the principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the following manner: (Principal's Name) by (Your Signature) as Agent.**

Unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise, you must also:

- 1. Act loyally for the principal's benefit;**
- 2. Avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act in the principal's best interest;**
- 3. Act with care, competence, and diligence;**
- 4. Keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf of the principal;**
- 5. Cooperate with any person that has authority to make health care decisions for the principal to**

**do what you know the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest; and**

**6. Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you know the plan and preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest.**

#### Termination of Agent's Authority

**You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you learn of any event that terminates this power of attorney or your authority under this power of attorney. Events that terminate a power of attorney or your authority to act under a power of attorney include:**

- 1. Death of the principal;**
- 2. The principal's revocation of the power of attorney or your authority;**
- 3. The occurrence of a termination event stated in the power of attorney;**
- 4. The purpose of the power of attorney is fully accomplished; or**
- 5. If you are married to the principal, a legal action is filed with a court to end your marriage, or for your legal separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise.**

#### Liability of Agent\*\*

The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, West Virginia Code § 39B-1-101 et seq. If you violate the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, West Virginia Code § 39B-1-101 et seq., or act outside the authority granted, you may be liable for any damages caused by your violation.

If there is anything about this document or your duties that you do not understand, you should seek legal advice.