

# **WESTERN WAKE LAW GROUP**

## **ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

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### **ADDITIONAL ESTATE PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

Thank you for choosing **WESTERN WAKE LAW GROUP**. Additional Estate Planning Documents include the following:

#### **GENERAL DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

- You appoint someone to have the legal authority to act for you.
- You are the "principal" and the person you give the power to is your "attorney-in-fact."
- It is effective immediately, even if you are competent.
- It remains effective even if you become incapacitated or mentally incompetent.
- You can and should appoint an alternate.
- Having a Durable Power of Attorney in place, avoids putting you and your family through a long and expensive guardianship proceeding if you become incapacitated or mentally incompetent.
- It expires when you pass away.

#### **HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

- You appoint someone to make health care decisions for you.
- It is effective only when your physician determines that you are not able to make health care decisions for yourself.
- You can and should appoint an alternate.

#### **DECLARATION OF DESIRE FOR A NATURAL DEATH (LIVING WILL)**

- You make a statement regarding your wishes in the event:
  - Your condition is determined to be terminal and incurable; or
  - You are in a persistent vegetative state.
- Under the above circumstances you state whether you want your physician:
  - To withhold or discontinue extraordinary means; or
  - To withhold or discontinue either artificial nutrition or hydration.
- If the person appointed under your Health Care Power of Attorney disagrees with this, the Living Will still controls.
- If any individual does not have a living will or health care power of attorney, the above decisions will be made by the patient's spouse or next of kin, unless a court has appointed a guardian.