

Senior Moments

Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC
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What is a POST Form? Do I Need One?

There are many different kinds of advanced healthcare directives that you can sign to provide direction about treatment if you become critically ill. You can also specify who should make healthcare decisions for you if you were unable to make decisions for yourself. In 2013, a law was passed in Indiana allowing qualified patients to also have a POST form to help seriously ill patients communicate their preferences for treatment in a way that would be effective across multiple care settings.

POST is an acronym for Physician's Order for Scope of Treatment. Not everyone qualifies to have a valid POST form in their medical chart. To qualify for a POST form, an individual must have an advanced chronic progressive illness, a terminal illness, or be chronically and progressively frail. A physician must decide if a patient qualifies to complete a POST form or not.

If you are suffering from a long term illness or terminal illness then you should discuss with your doctor whether or not you qualify. Signing a POST form with your physician before your condition deteriorates further can ensure that you will continue to have a voice in making medical decisions even if you are unable to communicate your wishes for yourself.

You should also sign an Appointment of Health Care Representative so that a family member or loved one is empowered to make health care decisions for you if you were unable to consent to your own healthcare. Your appointed health care representative can have a POST conference with your doctor and implement a POST form on your behalf, as well.

Think about the last phase of your life. Getting the right advanced directives in place now will help you have a say in these matters. It will also help make these decisions easier for your loved ones.

The POST form can be found at www.indianapost.org.

**Our office hours are
8:30-5:00
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Digital Assets are Everywhere!

So much of our lives have become electronic these days! We operate social media accounts such as Facebook that are full of our important photos and messages. We manage business accounts and financial accounts online. We sign up for loyalty programs and other benefit programs that we manage through apps we have installed on our smart phones or computers. We buy and sell property online. We even pay bills online, sometimes without ever receiving a paper statement at all. While there may be some advantages to living in a “paperless” world, you need to understand what digital assets are and consider how owning digital assets impacts you if you become incapacitated.

Indiana officially defined the term digital assets on July 1, 2016 as a part of the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act. Section 10 of that Act states that “digital asset” means an electronic record in which an individual has a right or interest. This law also defined who can have access to your digital assets both during your life and after your death.

A general power of attorney may not allow your acting attorney-in-fact to obtain access to your financial accounts so that he or she can pay your bills or manage your finances for you. You should sign a Financial Power of Attorney that includes a provision allowing your attorney-in-fact to access and manage your digital assets for you if you are unable to do so for yourself. You may also want to make provisions for your digital assets after your death through your Will or Trust.

Digital assets can have significant value. Do not overlook the importance of making sure someone is legally able to access those assets on your behalf if necessary. Talk to your attorney about a properly drafted Will, Trust, and/or Financial Power of Attorney for this purpose.

