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*The VOLS Senior Law Project connects eligible New York City residents age 60+ to lawyers at our many partner law firms to obtain wills and advance directives free of charge. The documents we can help clients prepare include documents that are useful during your lifetime, and documents that are useful after your death.*

### *Documents that are important during your lifetime*

- **The Durable Power of Attorney**

A **Durable Power of Attorney** is a very powerful document that gives power to another person (called your “Agent”) to make financial, property-related, and other legal decisions for the “Principal” (you are the Principal). The Durable Power of Attorney is often used to help when you (the Principal) become very ill or disabled.

- **The Healthcare Proxy**

A **Healthcare Proxy** is a document where you (the “Principal”) name another person (your “Agent”) to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself.

- **The Living Will**

In your **Living Will**, you explain what treatment and care you would want or *not* want at the end of your life. The Living Will does *not* name a person to make decisions.

### *Documents that are important after your death*

- **The Last Will and Testament**

In your **Last Will and Testament**, you say who you would like to receive your property – the contents of your apartment, your money, property, etc. – after your death. In your **Will**, you name a person, your “**Executor**,” to protect your property until debts and taxes have been paid, and then to ensure that what's left goes to the people who are entitled to it.

- **The Control of Remains Form**

You may name a person to handle the disposition of your remains – that is, your burial, cremation, or funeral – in a “**Control of Remains Form**.” In this document, you may include very specific instructions and information, such as the location of your burial plot, or the place where you would like your ashes to be scattered.