

Choosing Your End of Life Support Team

If you're creating an end of life plan, it's a good time to choose people you trust to be on your end of life support team.

Consider Your Needs

Choosing your end of life support team may seem challenging however you can start by simply thinking about your needs. For example, do you have health issues to manage as you near End of Life? Do you own property or a business that will need management if you become unable?

Consider Your Preferences and Resources

Think about who may be best suited, and what skills are most important for each role. For example, your Healthcare Proxy (HP) or Medical Power of Attorney (MPOA) should be accessible, and willing to support and defend your final care choices. Your Financial Power of Attorney (FPOA) should be able to manage your financial matters without conflict of interest.

Ask Questions

It may help to ask yourself some questions as you consider your end of life Support Team:

- Will my choices stand the test of time?
Think about how long and in what capacity you have known potential team members. Consider how long you may need them to fill their respective role. For example, it may be best to choose a legal guardian who is capable of caring for minor dependents into adulthood.

- Will my loved ones accept my choices?
Consider how your choices may impact your family. For example, if a different person serves as your HP, FPOA, executor and legal guardian, make sure they can work together to carry out your final wishes.
- How do I ask representatives to serve on my support team?
Consider the best time and place and how to approach the topic of building your End-of-Life support team. Get their input on how their lives might be impacted by your decisions. Be patient, flexible and willing to make changes or consider alternatives if needed.

Talk with Advisors

To help you choose the right team member for the right responsibility, get input from your loved ones and advisors before making your final decisions.

Find Additional Support

Consider all possible resources including extended family, neighbors, healthcare and hospice providers, and religious, professional or social contacts. Geriatric care managers can help in manage legal and financial matters. Your bank representative can help you establish a trust to manage financial matters if you haven't appointed an FPOA or executor. Consider an online service to manage your digital assets.

Visit www.passare.com for details on the legal forms necessary to empower your legal representatives and for more expert resources on building your End of Life support team and additional end of life topics.