



# Power of Attorney Questionnaire

***By John Comfort, L'Arche Ottawa***

N.B. The following questionnaire was developed in order to determine as clearly as possible the wishes of the person. For this reason it uses a series of questions asked in different ways

***Questions to be used to develop responses for:***

Power of Attorney - Property  
Power of Attorney - Personnel Care

Living will

For \_\_\_\_\_ to begin a reflection on the topics \_\_\_\_\_

Note that in the choosing of an attorney for property and an attorney for personal care, this person's role would be to assure that your wishes are respected when and if you are unable to make these decisions for yourself.

***Here are some sample questions:***

What do you own that is yours?

Who takes care of your money?

Who signs your cheques?

What would be the factors that would make it impossible for you to be able to take responsibility for your own finances? How would you feel about that?

If you cannot sign your cheques anymore, who in your family do you think you would want to sign your cheques?

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# AGING AND DISABILITY

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How do you pay for your rent at \_\_\_\_\_? How much? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does the money come from?

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Who helps you to buy new clothes?

Who pays for these new clothes?

If you are not able to decide what kind of clothes to buy, who could help you?

What kinds of clothes are important for you to wear?

Who in your family can help you to take care of the money in your bank account?

What kinds of things do you buy/like to buy with your money?

What do you want to have happen to those things if you get very sick?

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If you were to die have you thought about who you would like to leave things to?  
Who would be the best person to make these decisions?

If you become very sick, where do you want to live?

Are you happy living in the type of home you are now living in?

Is there another place you would be happy living?

How would you feel about living in a nursing home or a Chronic Care hospital? Under what circumstances would this option be acceptable to you?

If you had to move because you were too sick, what would be the most important thing that you would want to have with you?

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What is important for you to be able to do every day?

What are the favourite things that you like to wear?

What are the most important things for you in your life?

What happens to people when they get sick? What are the possible things that can happen?

Would you be happy if you had to stay in the hospital for a long time?

How did you feel about living through the experience of friends and family getting sick?

What do you want to have happen if you cannot eat any more?

What happens when someone becomes too sick?

If you are extremely sick, what type of medical interventions would be acceptable to you?

If you stop breathing what do you want others to state on your behalf?

What do you feel about choices of enabling someone to live or not?

What do you want have happen if you stop breathing?

Do you understand what DNR means? - Do Not Resuscitate.

Under what circumstances would you agree with a DNR order?

Under what circumstances would you **disagree** with a DNR order?

How do we know if someone has died?

What happens to someone when they die?

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If you die what do you want to have happen for you?

If you want there to be a funeral, who would you like to organize the funeral for you?

Where would you like the funeral to take place?

Who would pay for the funeral?

What would you like to have happen at your wake and funeral?

Do you have favourite songs/hymns or music that you would like to have played? Do you have favourite scripture readings that represent who you are?

Have you ever thought about the choices around cremation vs burial in a casket?

What would be your choice? Why?

Where would you want to be buried? What determines your choice?

Do you know if there are already funeral arrangements in place? Would you think that would be good to plan now or later? Do you know who can pay for your funeral?

Do you want to have a mass for your funeral? Why? Where?

What happens to our body when we die? Is this important for you?

What do you want to happen with your body when you die?

Do you know where you want to be buried? Who do you want to be buried with?

If you become too sick and are not able to make decisions for yourself about your health: who do you want to help you with those decisions? **Who would best understand your wishes?**

When you think about the money and the things you own: who do you want to help you with those decisions? **Who would best understand your wishes?**