

How Legal Documents Can Help with Caring for My Parents

Legal documents can help families with many situations and events. Anyone who is able to make informed decisions can sign legal documents. If you or your parents created an estate plan, you should look for the following documents:

Durable Power of Attorney

A Power of Attorney can help with the following items:

- Apply for and maintain government benefits
- Prepare yearly taxes
- Manage retirement accounts
- Pay bills

Revocable Living Trust

A Trust can help with the following items:

- Pay bills
- Manage real estate, bank accounts and investment accounts
- Avoid probate
- Minimize or eliminate estate tax

Advance Health Care Directive

A Health Directive, also known as a Power of Attorney for Health Care, can help with the following items:

- Communicate with your parents' doctor
- Organize parents' appointments
- Make decisions if your parent cannot communicate wishes
- Participate in medication decisions

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www.robbelothlaw.com • (408) 371-5206