

**Designated Funeral Agent for
Washington State**

I, _____ designate the following agent(s) to act on my behalf for the sole purpose of directing my funeral arrangements.

Primary Agent's Full Name: _____

Primary Agent's Address: _____

Primary Agent's Phone(s): _____ Relationship: _____

If my Primary Agent is for any reason unable or unwilling to serve in this capacity or does not make contact with the disposition entity I've named within 5 business days of my death, I then name the following person.

Alternate Agent's Full Name: _____

Alternate Agent's Address: _____

Alternate Agent's Phone(s): _____ Relationship: _____

I direct that all of my family and survivors shall honor this authorization. I direct that any funeral home, cemetery, cremation authority, memorial society or designated agent shall be held harmless for arranging or handling the disposition of my remains, if done in reliance upon this authorization. If I have not executed a written disposition request or authorization, nor filed or prepaid my arrangements with a licensed funeral establishment or cemetery authority, then I authorize the designated agent(s) listed here to select appropriate disposition arrangements for me including the type, place and method. Neither my designated agent(s) nor my surviving relatives can alter any prearrangements I have made. **If I have not provided sufficient funds to cover my prearrangements, I direct my designated agent(s) to pay the remainder of the cost and my estate to promptly reimburse my designated agent(s) for any personal funds advanced to pay for my disposition arrangements.** My designated agent(s) have complete authority to act on my behalf and direct any and all details related to my disposition arrangements that I have not already prearranged or authorized, including but not limited to obituary, funeral or memorial service, cemetery, monument, memorialization, reception or other related matters.

Declarant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Only the Declarant may sign, not the POA or Spouse)

Printed Name of Declarant: _____ Date of Birth: _____

UNDER WASHINGTON LAW, TO BE VALID, THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF A WITNESS:

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name of Witness: _____ Phone: _____

Address of Witness: _____



What Is a Designated Funeral Agent and How to Choose One

Per RCW 68.50.160

Not everyone has or wants family members to make their final arrangements. If this is true for you, you may want to establish a Designated Agent. Designating your Agent is an important decision as your agent will be legally responsible for carrying out your end-of-life wishes

About a Designated Agent

A Designated Agent is legally responsible for carrying out your death care wishes. If an Agent hasn't been designated, Washington law states that the role automatically goes to your legal next of kin. Your next of kin is legally defined in the following order as your:

1. spouse or registered domestic partner
2. child or children
3. parent(s)
4. sibling(s)
5. grandchildren
6. nieces or nephews

If you have multiple surviving next of kin, i.e. three children or two parents, the decisions have to be agreed to by a majority in order to be carried out. For example, both surviving parents have to agree to the decisions made after you die, unless one forfeits their rights.

Often people believe that if they've appointed a power of attorney or an executor in their will, they won't need a Designated Agent. However, unless this paperwork explicitly says so, the executor or power of attorney doesn't have the right to decide what happens to your body after you die—so your end-of-life wishes aren't guaranteed.

Responsibilities of a Designated Agent

This person's responsibilities will include:

- **Executing existing arrangements**
Your Agent will be legally responsible for carrying out any wishes you document prior to your death.
- **Making decisions for anything you have not arranged**
Your Agent will also be authorized to act on your behalf to make decisions for any arrangements you have not already pre-arranged. For example, if you have not already documented what you would like to happen to your cremated, aquamated, or terramated remains, your Designated Agent is legally obligated to make that decision.
- **Paying additional costs**
If you have not paid for all of your arrangements in advance, your Agent is responsible for the additional costs.

How to Choose an Agent

When thinking about who to designate as your Agent, ask yourself questions such as:

- Is this person someone I can trust to understand and honor my wishes as I have documented them? Can I trust them to follow my wishes, even if they don't agree with what I want to have happen to my body?
- Will this person be equipped to make these decisions at the end of my life? If I choose my spouse or child, will they be emotionally able, while managing the grief of my death, to see to my wishes?
- If I haven't already paid in full for all of the wishes I've documented, my Agent may be responsible for the cost. Is this person willing and able to handle the cost of executing my wishes?
- If I do not die within my funeral home of choice's service area, my Agent will be responsible for arranging for transport of my body to the funeral home. Will they be logistically and financially equipped to take care of this responsibility?

Talking with Your Agent

Once you have someone in mind to act as your Agent, we recommend speaking with them to ensure they are willing and able to execute these responsibilities.

Once you have chosen your Agent, please fill out the Designated Agent form. Once your form is signed and witnessed, please save a copy and keep it with your other important papers, like your will. Make sure to give a copy to your Agent as well. You may also consider giving a copy to your funeral home of choice

