



## Simplifying the Path to Creating a Power of Attorney for Personal Care (POA-PC)

### NEW RESOURCE

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) has created an interactive pathway for making it easier for people to complete a POA-PC document in about 20-30 minutes, and it may be found here:



[Guided Pathways to Preparing a Power of Attorney](#)

Individuals have two options for creating the POA-PC using the pathway:

1. Create a secure, confidential account with CLEO which will allow a user to log in and edit the document as needed over time, or
2. Complete the POA-PC as a guest. As a guest, a user will need to answer all the questions without stopping. Once questions have been answered, users will be able to download and print the POA-PC, but then all their information will be erased after a 4-hour system timeout.

The pathway uses simple to understand language, addresses common questions/myths on POA-PCs, provides legal definitions, and has Learn More and Additional Resources sections. The pathway is set up like an interview, asking users a series of questions about their circumstances, and giving them information to help them answer. The result is the creation of a formal POA-PC that users may download and print and is accepted everywhere.

COVID-19 has helped motivate many individuals to start or continue having Advance Care Planning (ACP) conversations with family, friends & colleagues. It is key to discuss wishes, values and beliefs pertaining to the various “What if” scenarios that might affect an individual’s future health status with loved ones while they are capable to do so. Research shows that when we have these conversations early and ongoing, loved ones are better able to share with the health care team what the person would want, given the situation when they cannot speak for themselves. It has been found that loved ones experience less anxiety, stress, and guilt when making decisions about an individual’s care needs, because they are acting upon the wishes, values, and beliefs the individual shared with them when they were capable <sup>(3)</sup>.

#### Resources/References:

1. *Regional WW ACP [website](#) - information/resources on ACP and a webinar on using the new CLEO pathway.*
2. [Community Legal Education Ontario \(CLEO\)](#)
3. [Speak Up Ontario](#)

### For Health Care Providers

#### Test Your Knowledge on SDMs

Everyone in Ontario has an automatic Substitute Decision Maker (SDM).

If an individual feels the automatic SDM listed for them would not make health care decisions for them, based on their wishes, beliefs, values or best interests, they may choose one or more persons as their POA-PC. <sup>(3)</sup>.

#### [The Health Care Consent Act \(1996\)](#)

includes a hierarchy of SDMs. Click on the button below to test your knowledge on the order of the Ontario SDM Hierarchy.

[SDM Hierarchy  
Quiz](#)