



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA
Secretary

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner

June 3rd, 2026

Dear colleagues,

DPH is partnering with Honoring Choices Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association to offer a free multilingual Health Care Proxy and Personal Directive (Living Will). **We ask that you join us in providing this information to all of your residents and patients over the age of 18.**

As many of you know, a Health Care Proxy helps ensure that a person gets care aligned with their values and preferences, directed by someone they trust. It can prevent delays in care and stress on families that occur when there is no legally designated decision-maker. It can avoid the need to appoint a Guardian in a legal process that can be lengthy, impacting the timeliness of care. This is not only an issue for our aging population; in an emergency situation, it is important to have someone who can understand and advocate for a patient's wishes – at any age.

The Honoring Choices MA [13th Annual Health Care Decisions Spring Celebration](#), which runs April-June, is a moment to ensure that every adult has a Health Care Proxy. You have a key role to play. For many people a health care professional is the first place they learn about a Health Care Proxy, or get the encouragement and support needed to complete one.

To support your or your team member's communications, we have attached [Who is Your Health Care Agent](#), a one-page consumer handout available in 9 languages, with three simple steps to choose a Health Care Agent and complete a Health Care Proxy. The consumer handout links to the Honoring Choices [Quick Start page](#) where adults can:

- Download a free Health Care Proxy, available in 17 languages
- Make their own "I Have a Health Care Proxy" wallet card, available in 7 languages
- Watch helpful videos:
 - How to Choose a Health Care Agent
 - How to Complete an Honoring Choices Health Care Proxy
- Download Who is Your Agent? Consumer Handout, available in 9 languages
- Download a free Personal Directive (Living Will), available 5 languages,
 - Especially helpful for adults who are not able to choose a Health Care Agent.

People can complete a Health Care Proxy just using these forms, but many need help. **Every health professional or member of a care team can help a person complete a Health Care**

Proxy. No specific training is required, but anyone wishing to expand their knowledge to ensure adults are completing a valid Health Care Proxy and Personal Directive can view the free on-line Honoring Choices Health Care Planning Ambassador webinar. Hospitals and clinics can also use this training to support an interdisciplinary approach to Health Care Proxy completion, ensuring any member of the health care team is equipped with the information and confidence they need to lead these discussions. Participants receive an Honoring Choices Health Care Ambassador Certificate, joining the 8000+ Ambassadors starting routine and simple conversations across the Commonwealth. The training can be found at [this link](#). For information, contact Ellen DiPaola, President & CEO, at edipaola@honoringchoicesmass.com

If you need further support integrating these into your communications with patients, the **Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association** and leading cross-continuum organizations have launched the **Simple Step Campaign**. It's easy to add this campaign to your health care and community organization workflows. When you join, you receive no-cost Simple Step campaign materials, multilingual planning documents, and a 30-minute staff training to confidently engage adults in these simple — and vital — conversations. [Join the campaign today](#)

Thank you for your partnership in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Zeidman'.

Jessica Zeidman, MD
Deputy Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer
Massachusetts Department of Public Health