July 2017

For those of you with children going off to college or to start a career think about having a medical power of attorney (p.o.a.) sometimes called a power of attorney for health care put in place. When your children reach the age of 18 in Wisconsin you can no longer make health care decisions for them and information cannot be given to you. Here’s a scenario, your child at college has an accident in which they receive a brain injury that leaves them unable to communicate. You cannot have them transferred to a facility near where you live or your home. This would take a court action, unless a medical p.o.a. is in effect. Below is a link to a site that has a power of attorney form you can fill out.

<https://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/professional/hcw/resources-2/hcw-advance-directive/>

It is also a good idea to be a cosigner on any bank accounts they may have. This will give you access to the funds in case of emergency without having to go to court.