

144B.9 Immunities and responsibilities.

1. A health care provider is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary action if the health care provider relies on a health care decision and both of the following requirements are satisfied:

a. The decision is made by an attorney in fact who the health care provider believes in good faith is authorized to make the decision.

b. The health care provider believes in good faith that the decision is not inconsistent with the desires of the principal as expressed in the durable power of attorney for health care or otherwise made known to the health care provider, and, if the decision is to withhold or withdraw health care necessary to keep the principal alive, the health care provider has provided an opportunity for the principal to object to the decision.

2. Notwithstanding a contrary health care decision of the attorney in fact, the health care provider is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary action for failing to withhold or withdraw health care necessary to keep the principal alive. However, the attorney in fact may make provisions to transfer the responsibility for the care of the principal to another health care provider.

3. An attorney in fact is not subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability for any health care decision made in good faith pursuant to a durable power of attorney for health care.

4. It shall be presumed that an attorney in fact, and a health care provider acting pursuant to the direction of an attorney in fact, are acting in good faith and in the best interests of the principal absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.

5. For purposes of this section, acting in "*good faith*" means acting consistent with the desires of the principal as expressed in the durable power of attorney for health care or otherwise made known to the attorney in fact, or where those desires are unknown, acting in the best interests of the principal, taking into account the principal's overall medical condition and prognosis.

6. A health care provider or attorney in fact may presume that a durable power of attorney for health care is valid absent actual knowledge to the contrary.

91 Acts, ch 140, §9