

## Legal Matters

There are several legal documents that persons living with Parkinson's Disease and their circle of caregivers should have in place. Discussion involving all stakeholders and clear communication are critical. Our natural tendency is to avoid these discussions and making decisions about a will, power of attorney, health care directive and legacy.

The AGEFRIENDLY Manitoba Publication 'A Legal Information Guide for Seniors' contains helpful information for people of all ages. This booklet has been developed by the Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat, The Public Trustee and the Community Legal Education Association (CLEA) to help Manitobans better understand wills and estates, and related matters of powers of attorney and health care directives. This free booklet is available from Regional Health Authority locations, the Parkinson Society Manitoba office and online at [http://www.gov.mb.ca/shas/publications/guide\\_for\\_seniors.pdf](http://www.gov.mb.ca/shas/publications/guide_for_seniors.pdf). This booklet is intended to provide general information. How the law affects you depends on your individual circumstances. Also, the law may change from time to time. If you have a legal problem or need specific advice, it is best to consult a lawyer. Parkinson Society Manitoba recommends consulting a lawyer, creating documents that meet legal requirements and keeping the documents current.

### ***Will***

A person's written declaration of how his or her property is to be disposed of upon death. It may also contain other declarations of the maker's wishes.

### ***Power of Attorney***

A document authorizing a person or corporation to handle the financial and legal affairs of another person.

### ***Health Care Directive (Living Will)***

A written document that states a person's preference as to the type and level of medical care he or she would or would not want to receive, and/or names a person (known as a proxy) to make medical decisions for the maker of the directive. The directive is legally binding if the maker is incompetent to make medical treatment decisions or unable to communicate his or her wishes.

### ***Legacy***

A gift of personal property by will. Personal property includes all types of property other than real estate.