

**Attorney Timothy P. Crawford, CPA, CELA\*, CAP\*\***  
wanted to share this information with you.

**THE FRED & KAREN KELROY STORY:  
Why Do You Need a Health Care  
Power of Attorney for Your Child?**

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Many people don't realize that they need a Health Care Power of Attorney for their children when a child reaches the age of 18. At the age of 18, a child is a legal adult, and no one else can make a medical decision for the 18-year old child. Thus, the child needs to sign a Health Care Power of Attorney, appointing an Agent, naming Mom or Dad, to be able to make medical decisions for the child if the child were to go into a coma. With the signed Health Care Power of Attorney, a parent could make a medical decision for an unconscious child. Remember if a child is under the age of 18, then the parent, by law, can make a medical decision for a minor child.

With the permission of Fred and Karen Kelroy, I want to tell you what happened to them.

In 1990 when Health Care Powers of Attorney first became available, Attorney Timothy P. Crawford spoke at Sacred Heart Church. In attendance was Karen Kelroy. She picked up four Health Care Power of Attorney forms, took them home, completed them, and had her husband, herself, and her two children each sign a Health Care Power of Attorney. She had two neighbors serve as the witnesses. A number of years later, her son, a student of University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, needed to be admitted to the hospital for a serious medical problem. At the hospital, he was administered a drug which caused him to have a severe reaction to the drug and he went into a drug-induced coma. The family was called to the bedside, and the family was asked, "Does your son have a Health Care Power of Attorney?" Karen Kelroy told the doctor that her son had signed a Health Care Power of Attorney and described the circumstances under which Attorney Timothy P. Crawford had helped the family get their Health Care Power of Attorney. At that time, the doctor told her to call the lawyer, and for Karen to thank the lawyer for giving her that form and telling her to have all family members to complete it. Without her son having the signed the Health Care Power of Attorney, Karen would have been unable to make medical decisions for her son. This signed document put Karen Kelroy in control of the medical decision-making process. She was able to make all of the medical decisions for her son. Her son eventually died and result of his illness; however, Karen was able to be in control of the decision-making process.

The doctor said he had never seen a child, that young, (age 22) have a signed Health

Care Power of Attorney. Karen has written a book entitled The Day of the Zebra, which discusses her family's experience with her son's dying process. In this book, she refers to the fact that she was so thankful that she had a Health Care Power of Attorney for her son and was able to be in control of making all of his medical decisions. Fred and Karen make a point of trying to educate the public on the need for everyone to have a Health Care Power of Attorney. They are true believers in the need for a Health Care Power of Attorney. They have first-hand experience as to how helpful a Health Care Power of Attorney can be.

**“Those Who Plan Ahead Win.  
Those Who Don't Plan Ahead Lose.”**

This article is not intended as legal advice. It is basic information. I would recommend that you call Attorney Timothy P. Crawford for a free conference to discuss your situation in more detail. Attorney Timothy P. Crawford can be reached toll-free at 1-888-634-6675. When you call in, please mention the fact that you have read this article.

\*Attorney Timothy P. Crawford is a Board Certified Elder Law Attorney(CELA). He has been Board Certified by the National Elder Law Foundation which has been approved as the Sole Certifying Organization for Elder Law Attorneys by the American Bar Association.

\*\*Timothy P. Crawford was invited to join the Council of Advanced Practitioners of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) in August of 2005. The Council of Advanced Practitioners (CAP) is a small group of premier elder law attorneys, all of whom have been members of NAELA for at least 10 years, are certified as elder law attorneys by the National Elder Law Foundation, and are AV rated the top in the nation by Martindale Hubbell. A Service that provides an independent rating of the quality of attorneys.

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