What happens if I don’t choose a health care agent?

Washington State law lists who will make health care decisions for you if you cannot.

The order for who will decide is:

- A guardian appointed by the state
- Named health care agent with health care decision-making authority in the advance directive
- Your spouse or registered domestic partner (even if separated)
- Your adult children *
- Your parents *
- Your adult siblings *
- Your adult grandchildren *
- Your adult nieces & nephews *
- Your adult aunts & uncles *
- A close friend who meets certain criteria*

*Any group that has more than one person: all in the group must agree to the care.