**Power of A****ttorney**

Department: Assisted Living

Approved By: Executive Team

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Updated:

**Policy:**

To support resident’s autonomy Southview will ensure that it is aware of the resident’s financial and health care planning options.

**Purpose:**

A power of attorney (POA) is a legal document that permits a resident to name an individual or individuals to make certain types of decisions on the resident’s behalf.

In Assisted Living there is no legal requirement that a person must appoint an attorney for property or personal care. However POA’s (Power of Attorney) do not have the authority to make all personal care or property decisions on behalf of the incapable person. Southview will confirm that appropriate measures are taken in obtaining consent from a resident or substitute decision-maker.

**Procedure:**

1. During the client interview process with the VCH Case Manager and Assisted Living Manager in attendance, Southview will enquire if the client has a POA.
2. If the client does have a POA it will be noted down and any information pertaining to the client’s POA.
3. During the occupancy agreement signing, prior to move in, the client will authorize Southview to contact the POA, if required for financial matters or emergency medical matters.
4. Southview will keep the POA document in the resident’s file and note specific instructions: setting out future care wishes, or supplement the POA with a living will. These instructions can set out the type of treatment the resident may or may not wish to receive, where the resident will live once they are no longer suitable for Assisted Living and more general personal decisions, including those regarding food, clothing and hygiene. The specific decision-making authority of the POA is derived from the authority set out in the document, which may be either unlimited or tightly prescribed