

## Authorization to Release Health Records from a Deceased Patient

According to California Civil Code 56.11 (c) (4), only a personal representative or beneficiary of a deceased patient can sign a release for health information. If you are not a beneficiary or personal representative of the deceased individual, you are not entitled to the records.

A "beneficiary" is an individual who will receive property from the deceased either through the deceased will or by law if the deceased died without a will. Even if you are a close relation to the deceased you may not be a beneficiary. (See Probate Code Section 24).

"Personal representative" means an executor, administrator, successor personal representative, or special administrator of the patient's estate, or a person legally authorized to perform substantially the same functions under the law of another jurisdiction governing the person's status (Probate Code Section 58).

If you are unsure about whether you are a beneficiary or personal representative, you should consult with an attorney.

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that I am the deceased patient's Representative/Beneficiary  
Print Name

Check One Box:

- Personal representative  
Attach copy of order or other evidence that you are the personal representative.
- Beneficiary  
Relationship to deceased \_\_\_\_\_.

I understand that the medical or behavioral health records of an individual, including a deceased individual, are confidential and that only those persons authorized under the law can get access to those records.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge that the above information is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Representative/Beneficiary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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