

## Legal:

**Be able to describe how my health care decisions will be made (Power of Attorney, Durable Power of Attorney, Supported Decision Making Agreement or Guardianship).**

## Legal Issues:

- By law, people become adults at age 18.
- Some adults can make their own decisions, but others need help.
- A person they trust can be given the right to make decisions for them. This is called “guardianship.”
- If there is no legal plan in place, even the parent of an 18-year-old with special needs may not be allowed to see the health care records of their adult “child.”
- For more on this topic:
  - » Ask a social worker for help.
  - » Work with an agency or a lawyer that helps families make these legal plans.
  - » To see Children's Mercy's “Transition to Adulthood” webpage, scan the QR code.



## Key Legal Words to Ask About:

- **Power of Attorney**
- **Durable Power of Attorney**
- **Supported Decision Making Agreement**
- **Full or Limited Guardianship**