

## **Scenario 1**

Bob is 75 and widowed

He has had a heart attack and is in a coma

Bob has 4 adult children

- Jane lives with Bob
- Terry lives an hour away
- Mark lives in B.C.
- James lives in England

The doctor has recommended Bob have bypass surgery and needs consent

Who is Bob's SDM?

## **Scenario 2**

Marie is 85 years old and a Long-Term Care bed has become available for her

The CCAC (now Home and Community Care) staff does not think Marie has the capacity to make her own decision about moving into LTC

The Home and Community Care staff turn to her SDMs to obtain informed consent to admit her to LTC

Marie's two adult children are her automatic SDMs according to the hierarchy

They cannot agree on the decision

One says yes and the other says no

What happens in this case?

### **Scenario 3**

Kevin and Sarah are married and have two teenage daughters

- Ava is 17 years old
- Emma is 14 years old

Kevin and Sarah get into a car accident and are both in hospital, unable to make their own (and each other's) health care decisions

Kevin and Sarah have both named each other in their Power of Attorney for Personal Care and have not named alternates

Who are Kevin and Sarah's automatic SDMs?

## **Answers**

### **Scenario 1**

All four children are SDMs according to the hierarchy unless there is a POA for Personal Care stating otherwise.

Their location does not matter provided they are available.

They could decide amongst themselves to allow one to make decisions.

One or more of them could opt not to be SDMs.

### **Scenario 2**

If the adult children cannot agree, then the decision would fall to the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee.

It is not the role of the PGT to mediate the dispute. The PGT becomes the SDM and makes the health care decision.

### **Scenario 3**

Ava is the automatic SDM. The age requirement to be an SDM is 16.

This example speaks to the consideration of naming alternates in a POA for Personal Care as well as to the need to have Advance Care Planning discussions with the whole family.