SOLINSKY & COMPANY

The College Student Legal Readiness Guide

New York forms and practical campus-access checklists for college-age adults and their families

Download, complete, and sign each executable form separately

Why this matters

When a student becomes a legal adult, parents generally no longer control the student's health information, finances, or education records. Properly completed documents can reduce delay and uncertainty, but they do not guarantee access and they do not replace a college's or provider's own procedures.

The student's choice controls

Each document should be signed voluntarily. A financial Power of Attorney can grant broad authority and may become effective before any emergency. The student should understand every authority granted and should use a lawyer when tailoring the form.

What's included in the website bundle

1. New York Health Care Proxy - appoints an agent to make health care decisions after the student loses decision-making capacity.
2. Health-Information Authorization - permits specified providers to disclose records and discuss care with a named family member or caregiver while the authorization is valid.
3. New York Statutory Short Form Power of Attorney - grants only the financial and legal subjects the student initials and is generally effective as to an agent after that agent signs before a notary.
4. FERPA Consent and Campus Access Checklist - addresses education records, authorized-payer access, emergency contacts, and school-specific health or counseling forms.

Questions, or want the documents reviewed for your family?

Solinsky & Company, PLLC offers a complimentary consultation to walk a college-age adult and family through the New York documents.

Call 516-927-0202 | dan@solinskylegal.com | solinskylegal.com

How the documents work

Health Care Proxy

Decision-making authority begins only after the student is determined unable to make health care decisions. The agent should know the student's wishes, especially about artificial nutrition and hydration.

Health-Information Authorization

This permits disclosure and discussion of health information; it does not authorize the recipient to make treatment decisions. The form in this bundle excludes specially protected categories unless a separate provider-specific authorization is completed.

Power of Attorney

This concerns financial and legal matters, not health care decisions. The principal must initial the desired authority categories. The statutory form is durable by default and does not automatically wait for incapacity.

FERPA and school portals

FERPA rights belong to the eligible student. A consent may permit disclosure of listed records to a named person, but the school may require its own portal or form. Tuition-billing access is often a separate authorized-payer process.

Campus health records can be different

Records maintained by a college-operated health or counseling service are often governed by FERPA rather than HIPAA. Ask the school which authorization applies and complete its required process.

Out-of-state students

Execution, witness, notarization, and acceptance rules vary by state. A student attending college outside New York should check the official forms and local requirements of the college state and obtain advice from counsel licensed there when appropriate.

Signing and distribution checklist

Before signing

Read every form. Do not sign blank forms or grant authority the student does not understand.

Choose trustworthy people. Ask the proposed agent or recipient whether they are willing to serve.

Confirm the college's rules. Check the registrar, bursar, campus health center, counseling center, and student portal.

- [ ] Use local forms when needed. For an out-of-state college, confirm state-specific documents and signing rules.

Execution summary

Health Care Proxy: sign and date before two adult witnesses; the agent and alternate agent cannot witness. No notary is required by the standard New York proxy rules.

Health-Information Authorization: complete the provider/class, recipient, information, purpose, and expiration fields; sign and date. HIPAA does not require notarization or witnesses.

Power of Attorney: initial the authority categories; the principal signs and dates before a notary and two qualified witnesses; the notary may also serve as one witness. Each acting agent signs and dates before a notary.

FERPA: identify the records, purpose, and recipient; sign and date; then complete any school portal process.

After signing

Distribute deliberately. Give the health care agent, acting POA agent, and relevant provider or school only the documents they need.

- [ ] Store securely. Keep originals in a safe, accessible place and encrypted copies in a secure vault. Avoid ordinary phone photos or unencrypted email, especially if a document contains sensitive information.

Review after changes. Revisit the documents after a change in school, state, relationships, health, or finances, and at least once each academic year.

Revoke and replace correctly. Destroy outdated copies when appropriate and give written notice to agents, providers, schools, banks, and others who received the prior document.

Official sources and update links

This guide was legally reviewed against the sources below on July 15, 2026. Laws and school policies can change; use these links to confirm current requirements.

New York Health Care Proxy statute - Public Health Law § 2981: Open official source

New York Department of Health - Health Care Proxy form and instructions: Open official source

New York Power of Attorney validity requirements - GOL § 5-1501B: Open official source

New York Statutory Short Form Power of Attorney - GOL § 5-1513: Open official source

U.S. HHS - HIPAA authorization requirements: Open official source

U.S. Department of Education - FERPA consent requirements: Open official source

U.S. HHS - FERPA or HIPAA for campus clinics: Open official source

Scope

The executable forms are separate files in the website bundle. This separation avoids treating the Health Care Proxy and Power of Attorney as one executed writing. The out-of-state checklist is informational and is not a substitute for advice from counsel licensed in the college state.