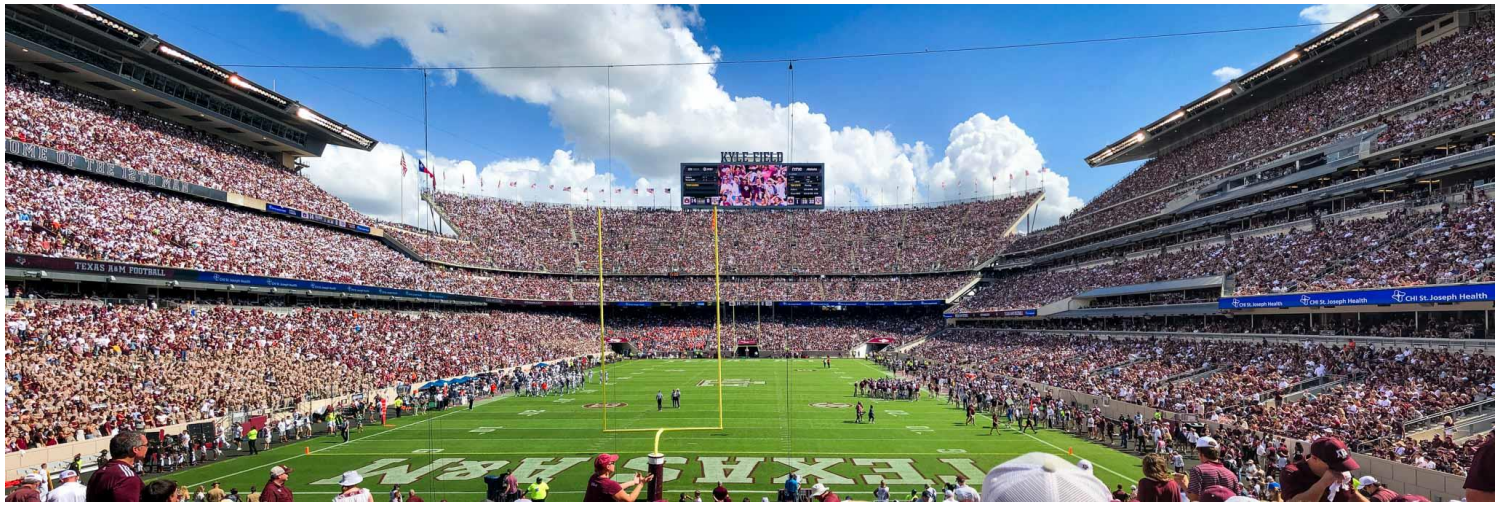

Don’t Send Your Kids Off to College without These!

You want your children to grow up to be self-reliant and fiscally responsible, but what about in the case of an emergency? What happens if your child has to go to the hospital and is unable to communicate with the doctors? Who will they call? Who will pay the bills or deal with the insurance company? You may think that person is you, but once they turn 18, they have to give you those rights that were inherently yours as a parent when they were minors.

So, how do they give you those rights? Through the use of 4 simple documents that will allow you to step in and help when your child needs it most.

1. **Medical Power of Attorney / Health Care Proxy:** This document allows the person the child designates to make medical decisions in the event they are incapacitated and unable to do so.

2. **HIPAA Release:** If an entity violates HIPAA, they are subject to civil fines as well as criminal penalties. As a result, you may not be able to have access to your child’s medical information without a HIPAA release in which your child designates a person who is authorized to receive health information, including insurance claims.

3. **Durable Power of Attorney:** The Durable Power of Attorney will allow your child to authorize you to manage his or her financial affairs.

4. **FERPA Release:** is a federal law that affords parents the right to have access to their children's education records, the right to seek to have the records amended, and the right to have some control over the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records. Most schools have a FERPA release readily available on their website.

YATES LAW GROUP
ATTORNEY AT LAW