

Advanced Directive

Advance Directives, Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney

An **Advance Directive** is a document in which a person either states choices for medical treatment or designates who should make treatment choices if the person should lose their decision-making capabilities. One document can cover both situations.

A **Living Will** is a legal document that allows you to state, in advance, your wishes regarding the use of life-sustaining procedures should you have a terminal condition.

A **Durable Power of Attorney** is included in a written document, such as **Advance Directives or a Living Will**, assigning to another person the right to make decisions on your behalf if you become unable to do so.

Advance Directive forms are readily available from many sources, including a physician or your attorney. Two adults who are not related to you must witness the document. A Durable Power of Attorney, stating your agent for decision-making, must be notarized.

The document should be reviewed every few years and can be changed if you want. It can also be cancelled by telling two adult witnesses of this decision. All old copies must be destroyed.

Your family members, clergy and physician should be made aware of your **Advance Directives**, or the contents of your **Living Will** and **Durable Power of Attorney**. Hospitals and other health care providers, including home health agency representatives must also be made aware of your **Advance Directives**. Your designated agent should have the original copy of the document and copies should be made available to all health care providers.

You can also obtain more information from your attorney or, if you are over age 60, Legal Services for the Elderly by calling your local Area Agency On Aging or Elderly Services, found in the Government section of your white pages.

Check List

Date of my Advance Directives or Living Will: _____

My Advance Directives documents are located: _____

My Durable Power of Attorney: _____

Copies have been provided to: _____