

INFORMATION ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

An accident or illness can take away a person's ability to make health care decisions, but decisions still have to be made. If you cannot do so, someone else will and sometimes this causes the burden, delay and expenses of court proceedings. You should consider whether you want to take steps to control these decisions so that they will reflect your own wishes.

LIVING WILLS

A Living Will (or declaration) is a statement of your wishes regarding the use of life prolonging treatment if you are in a terminal condition. (Living Will is different from the Will in which disposes of your property after death).

SURROGATE DESIGNATION

If you are too sick to make decisions, a close family member or a close friend usually will decide with the doctor and nurses what is best for you. Most of the time that works, but sometimes not everyone will agree about what to do, even if you have made a Living Will. One way to help ensure that your wishes will be honored is to name someone you trust to make medical decisions for you. You may name this person in the Living Will (or declaration), in which case such person makes only those medical decisions related to serious illness that could cause death.

If you want to name someone you trust to make all other medical decisions for you when you are too sick to do so yourself, you may wish to put this in writing. Remember, if you want this person to also make decisions about the use of machines and medical treatment that might delay your death when you are hopelessly ill, name the person in your Living Will.

It is advisable to name a replacement in case the person you have chosen to make decisions for you becomes unable or unwilling to do so.

If you decide to make a Living Will or other Advance Directives, it is recommended that you give a copy to your doctor, your closest relative, a close friend, the hospital, nursing home, or other facility where you are receiving treatment or care. If you change your mind, make sure that you advise all those to whom you have given copies.

A Living Will in no way affects Life Insurance. Also, it cannot be required as a condition for being insured or receiving health care services. Any medical treatment that is used for the purpose of providing comfort care or alleviate pain will be continued.

A summary like this cannot answer all of your questions or cover every circumstance. If you have questions about your particular legal situation, please talk to a lawyer. Also talk to your health care provider about the medical issues. Let those who will be caring for you know what you have decided.

PATIENT SELF DETERMINATION ACT QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to comply with Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 and Chapter 745, Florida Statutes, please answer the following questions:

Declaration to Decline Life-Prolonging Procedure (LIVING WILL)

- I have made such a declaration

Designee _____ Phone number _____

- I have NOT made such a declaration

Health Care Surrogate

- I have designated a Health Care Surrogate

Designee _____ Phone number _____

- I have NOT designated a Health Care Surrogate

Durable Power of Attorney

- I have appointed a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care decisions

Designee _____ Phone number _____

- I have NOT appointed a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care decisions.

I have been provided information regarding the PATIENT SELF DETERMINATION ACT:

Please Print Full Name

Social Security Number

Signature

Date

Relationship of Patient Representative (If applicable): _____