

HOW TO ARRANGE YOUR HEALTH CARE

Your Living Will

PRINTABLE
FORMS



This Living Will
Is For Your Family

Digital Wealth Media Inc

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Your Living Will

A Living Will allows you to make your wishes known regarding your health care which is referred to by different names in different jurisdictions and countries.

Some of these names are:

- Advanced directive
- Advanced health care directive
- Advanced care plan and mandate
- Capacity to decide
- and various similar names

Whatever the document is called where you live, it is a statement of how you wish your health care to be handled in the event of your inability to do so. The purpose of this document is to cover situations where a Last Will and Testament do not apply. For example, you could be in a coma or otherwise incapacitated and unable to express your wishes and give consent to your medical care.

Why should you bother having a Living Will?

The purpose of having a Living Will is to make your wishes known regarding health care decisions at a time when you are critically ill and lose your decision-making capacity.

It will also facilitate a dialogue between you, your doctor and your family about specific types of care and life sustaining treatments you would wish to receive.

Completing your Living Will could reduce the burden on family and caregivers. This will enable them to respect your end-of-life decisions, given your specific values

When should I make a Living Will?

Most persons think about a Living Will when they, or someone close to them, becomes very sick.

But this decision to make a Living Will should be considered now while you are still up and running and can make a rational discussion after thorough consideration of all the factors involved.

How should I make a Living Will?

All Living Wills must include the two following basic requirements:

1. Your signature: If you are unable to sign, someone else may do so for you. They must sign in your presence and at your direction. 2. The signatures of at least two witnesses:

At least two people must witness your signature and date the document.

Where should I keep my Living Will?

A copy of your Living Will should be given to your doctor and close family members. Once you have been admitted into a hospital or other health care facility, your Living Will should become part of your medical record.

Does my Living Will have to be legally filed?

No. A Living Will is valid once it has been signed, dated and witnessed and it does not need to be filed through a notary or lawyer.

General Advice

The active participation of your doctor allows you to be up to date on the decisions you are making. The implementation of your decisions will depend on medical and nursing care and the guidelines of the hospital intervention policy.

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

Please find your state and **ONLY PRINT** those pages.

(For example, if you live in Alabama, you would print pages 7-11 only.)

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