



LIVING WILL INFORMATION

Adult patients of sound mind have the right to accept or refuse any medical or surgical treatment. This includes the right to accept or refuse treatment through a Living Will.

What Is A Living Will?

A Living Will is a document in which you tell others of your wishes if you should become unable to do so in the future because of an accident or illness. The Living Will tells medical professionals and your family what medical procedures you want or do not want to be used to keep you alive. The Living Will is only used if you become terminally ill or permanently unconscious.

Should You Have A Living Will?

A Living Will can help protect family members from having to make important decisions about your care in an unexpected accident or illness. It allows you to control what measures will be used to prolong your life and relieves others of the responsibility of make those decisions.

What Types of Treatment Are Affected?

A Living Will affects only the types of treatment which your doctor believes would only postpone the moment of death by artificially altering your body's vital functions. Some examples include:

- **Artificial Feeding:** If you are no longer able to swallow food, nourishment can be supplied through tubes inserted in the nose or an incision in the abdomen.
- **Artificial Ventilation:** If you are no longer able to breathe on your own, a machine which assists or controls your breathing can prevent death. A Living Will lets you tell medical providers and your family if you want this type of support when there is no hope you will get better.
- **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR):** When your heart stops, heart massage, intravenous medications or electrical shock can be used to try to restart it. A Living will lets you determine whether you want these to be used or not.

Does This Mean Giving Up or Stopping Care?

A Living Will does not mean that you will be abandoned. Doctors and nurses will continue to take care of your needs and make every effort to keep comfortable.

What Is A Health Care Proxy?

You can choose to have another person make health care decisions for you if you become unable to make those decisions or yourself. The person you choose is called your "Health Care Proxy".

How to Make A Living Will or Health Care Proxy

To make a Living Will, you can fill out the form attached to this paper. Have two other adults witness your signature. If you decide to name a Health Care Proxy, fill out that part of the form. You can also fill out the organ donation portion if you wish to donate any organs. You can fill out any or all of the form.

What To Do With Your Living Will?

A copy of this form will be put in your medical record. Let Family members have a copy of it and always take a copy with you if you go to the hospital. You need to keep the original copy of this form.

If You Change Your Mind

If you change your mind about any part of your Living Will, notify your doctor and Family members and tear up all copies of the original form.