

TGH Surgery Center at Morsani

Advanced Directives

An advanced directive is a written or oral statement about how you want medical decisions made should you not be able to make them yourself. A living will is a written or oral statement of the kind of medical care you want or do not want if you become unable to make your own decisions. It is called a living will because it takes effect while you are still living. A healthcare surrogate designation is a document naming another person as your representative to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to make them yourself. You can include instructions about any treatment you want or do not want, similar to a living will. As an alternative to a health care surrogate, or in addition to, you might want to designate a durable power of attorney or attorney in fact. Through a written document you can name another person to act on your behalf. It is similar to a health care surrogate, but the person can be designated to perform a variety of activities (financial, legal, medical, etc.).

In the State of Florida, all patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions and to complete an advance directive, living will, healthcare surrogate/attorney in fact designation. TGH Surgery Center respects the patient's right to indicate their wishes in the form of an advance directive, living will, healthcare surrogate/attorney in fact designation. However, unlike an acute care hospital setting, the Surgery Center does not routinely perform "high risk" procedures.

Most procedures in this facility are considered to be elective and of minimal risk. Of course, no surgery is without risk and you will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your physician who can answer your questions as to the potential risks, your expected outcome and recovery after your surgery. Therefore, it is our policy regardless of the contents of any Do Not Resuscitate order, advanced directive or instructions from a Health Care Surrogate or Attorney in fact, that if an adverse event occurs during my treatments at the Surgery Center, the Medical Team will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and transfer me to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. Upon transfer to an acute care hospital, any care dictated by a Do Not Resuscitate order, advanced directives or instructions from a Health Care Surrogate or Attorney in Fact can be reinstated but will be up to the receiving facility to enact.

If for any reason you disagree with our policy regarding resuscitative measures, we will be happy to assist in notifying your physician that you wish to have your procedure rescheduled to another facility or hospital.

Please provide any advance directive, living will, healthcare surrogate/attorney in fact designations you may have to the Surgery Center.

____ Yes, I have an advance directive, living will, healthcare surrogate/attorney in fact designation

____ No, I do not have an advance directive, living will, healthcare surrogate/attorney in fact designation

____ I would like information on advance directives

Patient/Guardian Signature

Date