ONCE A TREATMENT HAS BEEN STARTED, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO STOP?

Many treatments are started without knowing what their outcomes will be or how you may be able to decide if you want to stop treatment. If you have asked your doctor to stop treatment, you may need to talk to your health-care provider or the person you have named to act as your surrogate to decide if you want to stop treatment.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS TO CARRYING OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS?

Yes. Instructions to withdraw life-prolonging treatment cannot be honored in case of pregnancy, or in cases where permanent impairment of your ability to make decisions, your Living Will or Healthcare Surrogate can be used to guide doctors in stopping treatments you do not want.

MY REQUEST THAT I NOT BE GIVEN FOOD AND WATER ARTIFICIALLY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY TUBE FEEDING OR THROUGH MY VEINS)?

You should also take time to discuss your wishes with those people who may become involved in your treatment decisions. If you have chosen to appoint a Healthcare Surrogate, your documents can be used in appropriate circumstances, can also direct your physician(s) to discontinue IV’s and tube feeding.

AFTER I COMPLETE A LIVING WILL AND/OR APPOINT A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE, WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO DO?

I/We will notify and send a copy of this document to the following person(s) other than my/our surrogate, so that they may know of my/our intention to amend or revoke this designation or 4) by signing a new Healthcare Surrogate Advance Directive.
Healthcare Advance Directives

Living Will and Designation of Healthcare Surrogate

Most people are aware that modern medicine can often keep a person alive even in situations where there is little or no hope of recovery. In these situations, medical treatments often serve only to prolong the process of dying. As a result, many people want to avoid such life-prolonging treatment and instead choose treatments aimed at maximizing their comfort and quality of life.

Unfortunately, many people find their emotional abilities without being talked to by their doctors about their wishes for treatment at the end of life. The doctor and family members responsible for people with difficult treatment issues, and rules that may not accurately reflect what an incapacitated patient might have wanted on his or her behalf. The best way to ensure that these problems is to make decisions in advance. This can be done in two ways:

- **Living Will**
- **Healthcare Surrogate**

**Living Will**

A Living Will is a written document that gives your wishes about your medical care if you are no longer able to communicate them. It is often referred to as a “Will for Life.” The Living Will sets forth the instructions you want to be followed if you are not able to make decisions about your medical care. It is the policy of this hospital, in accordance with state and federal law, to recognize your Living Will if it is properly executed and your physician understands its contents. Making your wishes clear to everyone involved in your treatment decisions is an important step in ensuring that end-of-life decisions are made in accordance with your wishes and the applicable law. When your medical condition is considered terminal and you can no longer speak or communicate your wishes, all appropriate actions will be taken to preserve life.

If your attending or treating physician and another consulting physician have determined that there is no reasonable medical probability of your recovery from such condition, I direct that life-prolonging procedures be terminated. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will. Under Florida law, you have the right to make a Living Will. You do not need an attorney or a notary to do this with, but it is important to make sure that you are able to do so. You need to provide an answer in a readable format in this situation. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

**Healthcare Surrogate**

A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint to make healthcare decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so. Your doctor will rely on the instructions in your Living Will only when your medical condition is considered terminal and you can no longer speak or communicate your wishes. You should also give copies to your appointed Surrogate. The language appears in the document is relevant, and the Living Will can be honored only when your wishes can be honored only when your wishes are clear and definite in the document. The designated Surrogate cannot be a witness to this document. The designated Surrogate cannot be a witness to this document.

Any natural way to make your wishes known to someone you trust a family member or a close friend, and that person is legally authorized to make decisions for you. The person you appoint to help you make decisions with your doctor for making your wishes known to your doctor.

When you are in an end-stage medical condition, a terminal condition, or in a persistent vegetative state, the Living Will does not apply. Your wishes will be honored only when your wishes are clear and definite in the document. A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint to make healthcare decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so.

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**Living Will and Designation of Healthcare Surrogate**

In the event that I have been determined to be unable to provide express and informed consent regarding the withholding, withdrawal, or continuation of life-prolonging procedures, I understand that I designate a Healthcare Surrogate to carry out the provisions of this declaration.

I decline all forms of life-prolonging procedures, including medical treatments that may be necessary to maintain my life. I am a person of religious value and belief that my life will be ended in natural ways. I do not want resuscitation or artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my veins.

Questions & Answers

**WHAT IS A LIVING WILL?**

A Living Will is a written document that gives your wishes about your medical care if you are no longer able to communicate them. It is often referred to as a “Will for Life.” The Living Will sets forth the instructions you want to be followed if you are not able to make decisions about your medical care. It is the policy of this hospital, in accordance with state and federal law, to recognize your Living Will if it is properly executed and your physician understands its contents. Making your wishes clear to everyone involved in your treatment decisions is an important step in ensuring that end-of-life decisions are made in accordance with your wishes and the applicable law.

**WHAT IS A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?**

A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint to make healthcare decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so. Your doctor will rely on the instructions in your Living Will only when your medical condition is considered terminal and you can no longer speak or communicate your wishes. You should also give copies to your appointed Surrogate. The language appears in the document is relevant, and the Living Will can be honored only when your wishes can be honored only when your wishes are clear and definite in the document.

**ARE LIVING WILLS AND HEALTHCARE SURROGATES JUST FOR SENIOR CITIZENS?**

No. You must be 18 years of age and of sound mind to complete a Living Will. Most Living Wills are completed by older people because of the importance of making end-of-life decisions. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

**WHAT CAN A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE DO?**

A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint to make healthcare decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so. Your doctor will rely on the instructions in your Living Will only when your medical condition is considered terminal and you can no longer speak or communicate your wishes. You should also give copies to your appointed Surrogate. The language appears in the document is relevant, and the Living Will can be honored only when your wishes can be honored only when your wishes are clear and definite in the document.

**WHAT can I Do to PREPARE MY Advance Directives?**

- **Living Will**
  - Choose a spokesperson to appoint a Healthcare Surrogate even if they have already filled out a Living Will. They are the designated person to make medical decisions for you. It is also recommended that they put decisions in writing. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.
  - For example, if you appoint in your Living Will that you do not want dialysis at end- life, your Surrogate cannot override this decision.

**ARE LIVING WILLS AND HEALTHCARE SURROGATES JUST FOR SENIOR CITIZENS?**

No. You must be 18 years of age and of sound mind to complete a Living Will. Most Living Wills are completed by older people because of the importance of making end-of-life decisions. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

**WHEN CAN I CHANGE MY LIVING WILL OR NAME A DIFFERENT HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?**

Yes, you may do so at any time. If you make changes to your Living Will or appoint a new Surrogate, be sure to carry a portable Do-Not-Resuscitate Order with them that can be honored by emergency healthcare personnel.

**MAY I CHANGE MY LIVING WILL OR NAME A DIFFERENT HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?**

Yes, you may do so at any time. If you make changes to your Living Will or appoint a new Surrogate, be sure to carry a portable Do-Not-Resuscitate Order with them that can be honored by emergency healthcare personnel.

**WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY LIVING WILL?**

I declare that if at any time I am incapacitated, all appropriate actions will be taken to preserve life.

I do not want artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my veins.

I do not want artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my nose or stomach.

I do not want medical care that may prolong my dying, such as antibiotics, blood pressure and heart medications.

Other Instructions (Non-Medical Information)

- I have an end-stage condition, OR
- I am in a persistent vegetative state, OR
- I am in a terminal condition.
- I do not want resuscitation or artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my veins.
- I do not want resuscitation or artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my nose or stomach.
- I do not want resuscitation or artificial nutrition and hydrating fluids given through tubes in my body.
LIVING WILL

A Living Will is a written statement signed by you that outlines your healthcare wishes. It is the document you should complete if you are alleging a terminal condition, have an end-stage condition, or are in a persistent vegetative state. A Living Will will provide instructions to healthcare providers. The Surrogate appointment document requires witnesses just like the Living Will, but your Surrogate cannot override the wishes in your Living Will.

WHAT IS A LIVING WILL?

A Living Will is a written statement formalizing your wishes about life-prolonging procedures. The statement is dated, signed, and witnessed. It is not a legal document; it is merely a means for you to communicate your wishes. A Living Will will allow you to be certain that your desires are carried out. If you are in the hospital, or are a patient in a nursing home, and your condition is terminal, your Living Will will be honored by your city or county attorney. If you are in a hospital, or are a patient in a nursing home, and your condition is terminal, your Living Will will be honored by your city or county attorney.

ARE LIVING WILLS AND HEALTHCARE SURROGATES JUST FOR SENIOR CITIZENS?

No. An Arizona Medical Power of Attorney or Healthcare Surrogate appointment is a legal document that allows a person to designate another person to make healthcare decisions on your behalf if you are no longer able to do so. The person you appoint as your agent will then be responsible for making healthcare decisions on your behalf, and the person will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

WHAT IS A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?

A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint, who makes decisions for you when you are no longer able to communicate your wishes. Once you have appointed a Healthcare Surrogate, the person you appointed will then be legally able to make decisions for you. So, if you complete a Living Will and a Healthcare Surrogate appointment document, you will have designated a person to make decisions for you when you are no longer able to make decisions for yourself.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LIVING WILL AND A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?

A Living Will is a legal document that formalizes your wishes about life-prolonging procedures. The statement is dated, signed, and witnessed. It is not a legal document; it is merely a means for you to communicate your wishes. A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint, who makes decisions for you when you are no longer able to communicate your wishes.

LIVING WILL AND DESIGNATION OF HEALTHCARE SORROGATE

The Surrogate appointment document requires witnesses just like the Living Will, but your Surrogate cannot override the wishes in your Living Will.

Sign your physician will be the one who can carry out your wishes. Your wishes must be communicated to your physician in a legally binding document (or a legally binding document is a legal document that formalizes your wishes about life-prolonging procedures. The statement is dated, signed, and witnessed. It is not a legal document; it is merely a means for you to communicate your wishes.

WILL MY LIVING WILL OR MY HEALTHCARE SURROGATE DECISIONS BE HONORED IN AN EMERGENCY?

Yes. In most instances, a healthcare provider is bound to your wishes stated in a legally binding document (or a legally binding document is a legal document that formalizes your wishes about life-prolonging procedures. The statement is dated, signed, and witnessed. It is not a legal document; it is merely a means for you to communicate your wishes.

HOW DO I CHANGE MY LIVING WILL OR MY HEALTHCARE SURROGATE DECISIONS?

You may change your decisions any time you can make your own decisions. However, you must be able to communicate your wishes. If you are unable to communicate your wishes, your Healthcare Surrogate can then make decisions on your behalf. If you are in an emergency department, you may want to speak with your healthcare provider about your wishes. If you are in the hospital, you may want to speak with your healthcare provider about your wishes.
Designation of Healthcare Surrogate for a Minor Advance Directive

**Designation of Healthcare Surrogate for a Minor Advance Directive**

- **Patients**
- **Legal Guardian(s)**
- **My child**

Withhold, or withdraw consent on my/our behalf, to apply for public benefits to defray the cost of health care, and to authorize

Witness 2:

Signature
Print name
Date

Witness 1:

Signature
Print name
Date

My surrogates' authority becomes effective when my physician determines I am unable to make my own healthcare decisions, and that it is determined that artificial feeding will only serve to prolong the process of dying. A Healthcare Surrogate, if the patient's 

Name 1:

Address: Apt. #:

City: State: Zip: Phone:

If my designated Healthcare Surrogate for a minor is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform his or her duties, I designate the following person as my alternate Healthcare Surrogate:

Name:

Address: Apt. #:

City: State: Zip: Phone:

If my Healthcare Surrogate is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform his or her duties, I designate the following person as my alternate Healthcare Surrogate:

Name:

Address: Apt. #:

City: State: Zip: Phone:

I further affirm that this designation is not being made as a condition of treatment or admission to a healthcare facility.

I understand that this designation will permit my designee to make healthcare decisions for a minor and to provide, refuse or withdraw consent to any and all of my healthcare, including life-prolonging procedures, to apply for benefits to pay for the cost of health care, to access the outcomes management departments. Your nurse can help you do this.

If I initial here, my surrogate can receive my health information immediately.

You should also take time to discuss your wishes with those people who may become involved in your treatment decisions, you can instruct your physician(s) to stop treatment(s) at any time. However, if your medical condition permits your personal remarks on your ability to make decisions, your living Will or Healthcare Surrogate cannot be used to give, decline, or change treatment decisions.

A HEALTHCARE SUBSTITUTE HOW DO I DO THIS?

Any person with decision making capacity can speak on his/her own behalf, or appoint a healthcare surrogate for a minor. To the extent I am capable of understanding, my Healthcare Surrogate shall keep me reasonably informed of all decisions

May I request that I not be given food and water artificially (for example, by tube feeding or through my veins)?

You should keep the original documents. Copies should be given to your doctor(s), and to other people who may become involved in your treatment decisions, you can instruct your physician(s) to stop treatment(s) at any time. However, if your medical condition permits your personal remarks on your ability to make decisions, your living Will or Healthcare Surrogate cannot be used to give, decline, or change treatment decisions.

As long as my living Will is valid, I may make additional changes to it, or revoke it at any time by writing to me a new document. In these instances, treatment decisions, you can instruct your physician(s) to stop treatment(s) at any time. However, if your medical condition permits your personal remarks on your ability to make decisions, your living Will or Healthcare Surrogate cannot be used to give, decline, or change treatment decisions.

If my/our designated Healthcare Surrogate for a minor is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform his or her duties, I designate the following person as my alternate Healthcare Surrogate:

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

If my Healthcare Surrogate is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform his or her duties, I designate the following person as my alternate Healthcare Surrogate:

If my/our designated Healthcare Surrogate for a minor is not willing, able, or reasonably available to perform his or her duties, I designate the following person as my alternate Healthcare Surrogate:

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Question & Answers

ONCE A TREATMENT HAS BEEN STARTED, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO STOP?

My child

Additional Instructions

- **Questions & Answers**
- **Designating a Healthcare Surrogate**

You should keep the original documents. Copies should be given to your doctor(s), and to other people who may become involved in your treatment decisions, you can instruct your physician(s) to stop treatment(s) at any time. However, if your medical condition permits your personal remarks on your ability to make decisions, your living Will or Healthcare Surrogate cannot be used to give, decline, or change treatment decisions.

Are there any limitations to carrying out my instructions?

- If the living Will or Healthcare Surrogate becomes inactive for any reason, the authority of the person designated in the living Will to make healthcare decisions will cease, and the person designated as alternate Healthcare Surrogate will have the authority to make healthcare decisions.

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Most people are aware that modern medicine can often keep a person alive even in the absence of an Advance Directive or other valid order, should any patient become irreversibly incapacitated, all appropriate actions will be taken to preserve life.

Once you have completed a Living Will and/or a form designating a Healthcare Surrogate, the person you appoint to help with treatment decisions will be legally authorized to carry out your decisions. The person you appoint to help with treatment decisions is called a Healthcare Surrogate.

A second way is to make your wishes known to someone else (usually a family member or a close friend), and give that person the legal authority to work with your doctor in making your treatment decisions. This forces doctors and family members to reflect what the incapacitated person might have wanted had he or she been capable of expressing preferences. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

WHAT IS A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?

A Healthcare Surrogate is a person you appoint to make medical decisions for you when you are no longer able to do so. Your choice of Surrogate is very important. It is also important to know that your Surrogate will be bound to any instructions in your Living Will.

MAY I CHANGE MY LIVING WILL OR NAME A DIFFERENT HEALTHCARE SURROGATE?

Yes, you may change your Living Will or name a different Healthcare Surrogate at any time. All you need is your signed Living Will document and the signatures of two witnesses (one witness must not be your spouse or child). You may change your Living Will to reflect what you wish to do now, or to provide that life-prolonging procedures be withheld or withdrawn when the application of such procedures would serve only to prolong a condition which is not reasonably expected to benefit you. It is my intention that this declaration be honored by my family and physician as the final expression of my desire that my dying not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below. I am healthy, and know how I want this living end.

If at any time I am incapacitated with no reasonable probability of recovery capacity AND

I have a terminal condition OR

I am in a persistent vegetative state AND

my attending or treating physician and another consulting physician have determined that there is no reasonable medical probability of recovery from such condition, I direct that the prolonging procedures be withheld or withdrawn which are not reasonably expected to benefit me, and that the attending or treating physician shall continue to provide comfort care and treatment which is medically indicated for me.
Designation of Healthcare Surrogate for a Minor Advance Directive

Healthcare Surrogate Advance Directive

I designate the following person to be my healthcare surrogate. My appointed healthcare surrogate is:

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ___________________ State: ______ ZIP: ______ Phone: ______

By my signature below, I authorize my healthcare surrogate to make all healthcare decisions for me, which means he or she has the authority to provide, refuse or withdraw consent to any and all of my healthcare, including life-saving treatment and surgical and diagnostic procedures, I wish to designate as my surrogate.

My surrogate's authority becomes effective when my physician determines I am unable to make my healthcare decisions.

If I would have: ___________________________________________________________

My surrogate's authority becomes effective immediately if: _______________________

Witness 1: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ___________________ State: ______ ZIP: ______ Phone: ______

Witness 2: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: ___________________ State: ______ ZIP: ______ Phone: ______

I understand that my surrogate is authorized to review my medical records and to receive any information that relates to me.

If I initial here, my surrogate can receive my health information immediately.

I fully understand that this designation will permit my designee to make healthcare decisions, and that I am waiving my right to be present or future payment for the provision of healthcare.

ONCE A TREATMENT HAS BEEN STARTED, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO STOP?

Many treatments are started without knowing what their outcome will be. If you remain able to make decisions, you can rescind your (physician's) stop treatment order at any time. However, if you evidence persistent incapacity to make your own decisions, your living will or healthcare surrogate can be used to guide decisions in appropriate circumstances, can also direct your physician to discontinue artificial feeding.

AFTER I COMPLETE A LIVING WILL AND/OR APPOINT A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE, WHAT DO I DO WITH THE DOCUMENTS?

You should keep the original documents. Copies should be given to your doctor(s), and to other people to whom you give authorization in the event that you are physically unable to do so. Your physician will place a copy of your document(s) in your medical record. Other people to whom you give authorization in the event that you are physically unable to do so. Your physician will place a copy of your document(s) in your medical record. Other people to whom you give authorization in the event that you are physically unable to do so. Your physician will place a copy of your document(s) in your medical record.

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Designation of Healthcare Surrogate for a Minor Advance Directive

HEALTHCARE ADVISORY: WHAT DO I DO WITH THE DOCUMENTS?

When you have completed your Living Will and/or appointed a Healthcare Surrogate, you should give copies of your document(s) to your doctor(s) and to anyone else you believe should have a copy (e.g., other family members, altemate surrogates, etc.). Your doctor(s) will place a copy of your document(s) in your medical record. Other people to whom you give your copies should be instructed to keep them in a safe place since they may be asked to make them available in the future.

AFTER I COMPLETE A LIVING WILL AND/OR APPOINT A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE, WHAT DO I DO WITH THIS DOCUMENT?

You should also provide a copy to the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, which monitor living wills. Both departments will also be informed if you are appointed a Healthcare Surrogate. Your living will and/or appointment of a Healthcare Surrogate should be on file with these two departments. You can provide this information by checking the appropriate box on the form.

Questions & Answers

ONCE A TREATMENT HAS BEEN STARTED, HOW DIFFICULT IS IT TO STOP?

Many treatments are started without knowing what their outcome will be; if you remain able to make decisions, you can instruct your physician(s) to stop treatment(s). In all instances where you are mentally impaired and cannot personally impair your ability to make decisions, your Living Will or Healthcare Surrogate can be used to guide decision-making in appropriate circumstances, so long as the decisions are in your best interest, consistent with your wishes and in accordance with Florida law. In appropriate circumstances, your Healthcare Surrogate can also direct your physician(s) to discontinue IV’s and tube feeding.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS TO CARRYING OUT MY INSTRUCTIONS?

Yes. Instructions to withhold or withdraw treatment specified in your Living Will that are in conflict with those made by your Healthcare Surrogate, if any are appointed, are not binding on your Healthcare Surrogate, who may override them. Your Healthcare Surrogate may not make decisions that are unreasonable or not consistent with your known wishes, or decisions that are not in your best interest.

MAY I REQUEST THAT I NOT BE GIVEN FOOD AND WATER ARTIFICIALLY (FOR EXAMPLE, BY TUBE FEEDING OR THROUGHOUT MY BODY)?

Yes. Florida law gives you the right to make such a request in your Living Will. If you make this request in a Living Will, your Healthcare Surrogate may authorize the withholding or withdrawing of treatment, including any mechanical or artificial support of life, to end your life. This request must be made in writing, and it is determined that artificial feeding will only serve to prolong the process of dying. A Healthcare Surrogate, in appropriate circumstances, can also direct your physician(s) to discontinue IV’s and tube feeding.

I AM INTERESTED IN PREPARING A LIVING WILL AND/OR APPOINTING A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE. HOW DO I DO THIS?

Advance directive forms are available through the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. You can obtain these forms in person, by writing, or by calling these offices. You can also obtain these forms from your doctor, your attorney, a healthcare professional, or a religious leader.

IF I DECIDE TO PREPARE A LIVING WILL OR APPOINT A HEALTHCARE SURROGATE, WHAT DO I NEED TO CONSIDER?

In preparing your Living Will, it is important to consider the following:

- What are your wishes regarding treatment and your medical care?
- What are the legal requirements for preparing your Living Will?
- Who will be your Healthcare Surrogate if you become mentally impaired?
- What are the potential consequences of your decisions?
- How can you ensure that your wishes are carried out?

In preparing your Living Will, it is important to consult with a healthcare professional, a legal professional, or a religious leader to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

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