

General Resources on End of Life Preferences

Thinking about your wishes for care:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/01/04/prepare-health-care-conversations/1807963>

National Healthcare Decisions Day: <http://www.nhdd.org/>

Advance Directive forms and resources valid in all 50 states. Guidelines to help you have a thoughtful conversation with your loved ones and your doctors

Life Matters

Providing the information you need to make life's toughest decisions <http://www.lifemattersmedia.org>

Ellen Goodman, The Conversation Project: <http://theconversationproject.org/>

60% of people say that making sure their family is not burdened by tough decisions is “extremely important” – yet, 56% have not communicated their end-of-life wishes. One conversation can make all the difference. Step by step guide to having that conversation.

The American Hospital Association offers resources to educate and raise awareness about advanced directives and end-of-life care. The new website, www.aha.org/putitinwriting, includes an updated campaign brochure, wallet card and public service announcement and new links to other key resources.

Five Wishes is written in everyday language and helps start and structure important conversations about care in times of serious illness. <http://www.agingwithdignity.org/five-wishes.php>

Jewish Resources

Jewish Medical Advanced Directives. The Committee of Law and Standards, The Rabbinic Assembly (Conservative):

<http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/sites/default/files/public/publications/medical%20directives.pdf>

The Union of Reform Judaism Advanced Directive, under “Articles/Documents”

<http://www.huc.edu/kalsman/IllnessWellness/resources/>

<http://kalsman.huc.edu/articles/URJ,%20Jewish%20Family%20Concerns%20Advance%20Directive.pdf>

Elliot Dorff. Matters of Life and Death: A Jewish Approach to Modern Medical Ethics. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1998)

Aaron Mackler, ed. Life and Death Responsibilities in Jewish Biomedical Ethics. (New York: Jewish Theological Society, 2000)

Halachic Organ Donor Society

www.HODs.org

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Advance Directives

You have the right to determine the type of care you want if you have a life-threatening illness. To make sure your wishes are carried through, discuss your medical care preference with your significant other, family members and doctor. Most importantly, complete advance directives.

Advance directives are documents that state your wishes/preferences about the type of medical care you receive. Your doctor will refer to these documents only if due to your medical condition you are unable to make decisions about your medical care. Advance directives do the following:

- Documents your wishes/preferences
- Eases the decision-making burden on your loved ones
- Allows you to choose someone you trust to make decisions about your care
- Fosters peace of mind and sense of control
- Useful in case of sudden accidents/illness; chronic illness; advancing age
- Avoids unwanted medical/surgical treatments

A Voice In Your Future (pdf) provides a detailed overview of advanced directives and how they can help you and your family in having your wishes recognized.

If you do not complete advance directives and are unable to communicate your wishes, your medical treatment will be decided for you in accordance with the Health Care Surrogate Act.

Types of Advance Directives

- **Living Will**
Describes your end-of-life wishes.
Living Will (pdf)
Living Will - Español (pdf)
- **Power of Attorney for Healthcare**
Allows you to select a family member or friend – designated as an agent – as your medical decision-maker.
Power of Attorney (pdf)
Power of Attorney - Español (pdf)
- **Mental Health Treatment Preference Declaration**
Allows you to select a family member or close friend as your mental health decision-maker. Expires three years from date signed.
Mental Health Treatment Preference Declaration Form (pdf)

We encourage you to talk about your wishes with people who are important to you:

- Openly discuss your wishes with your significant other, family, doctor and clergy.
- Choose an agent - someone with whom you have discussed your wishes, and who is able and willing to represent them.
- Discuss your values, beliefs (health, illness, dying, fears) and wishes with your agent.
- Let your significant other and family know how to easily contact your agent/attorney-in-fact.
- Discuss organ donation with your significant other and family.

The Health Learning Center offers information, including a DVD, about advance directives. Visit the Center, located at 201 E. Huron, 3rd floor, suite 304, to get your questions answered. Call (312) 926-5455 to schedule a free appointment with a health educator for an overview and discussion of the Illinois Power of Attorney for Health Care.

Online Patient Feedback
We welcome comments, questions or concerns through our online feedback form. For immediate assistance, call (312) 926-3333 to speak to a Patient Representative.

General information about advance directives

Illinois form to name your healthcare decision making "agent" – You do not need an attorney to complete this form.