

ADVANCE HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVE

Q&A

What is it?

Document that allows one or more people to make medical decisions on your behalf. It allows you to choose if you want life support at the end of your life

When is it effective?

From the day you sign it, and two people witness it, until your pass away + disposition of your remains

Who should be my agent if my spouse and I are retired?

We recommend having a co-agent to your spouse in case of a simultaneous incident including the both of you

What if I don't have one?

You would have to ask the probate judge to approve someone to serve as guardian for you, which includes 2 attorneys, a social worker, doctor, and \$3,000-\$25,000

From what age is it valuable?

From when you turn 18 until death

Does it need to be notarized?

No, just two witnesses. Plus, the witnesses do not even have to watch you sign it!

Who can act for me?

Anyone you trust to make medical decisions for you and to stand up to doctors to keep your care how you wanted

Who can serve?

Spouse, children, neighbor, friend, relatives, or even an independent nurse or company that employs nurses



Do they serve alone or together?

Either! You can pair people in a group of 2, 3, 4, or 5. You can make the best decision for your unique situation

How many agents do I need?

(1) agent is valid, more is recommended!
If you run out of agents at incapacity, you will need to file for guardianship

Can my agents do whatever they want?

No, they are required to follow your wishes. If they do not, you can fire them

How do I fire/revoke an agent or directive?

Revoke the old directive in writing and give to your doctor. Usually done when replacing a directive

Who should be my agent?

People with the strength of character to honor your wishes with financial and attentive skills

Do I need an original?

No, a copy is just as good as an original

Is my Dr. liable for not following my wishes?

If your doctor refuses to follow your wishes, they are required to transfer you to the care of another physician within two weeks. If they do not, they are liable

How often should I update it?

Once every 2-5 years or when you need to make changes

