



Sunrise
Haven





Advance Directives Presentation

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

We aren't legal professionals

We are not legal professionals, and this information should not be considered legal advice. Any information listed is subject to change based on new laws.

This information should NOT be used to replace consultation with a trained legal professional, or any other qualified expert.

Your health care, your decision

- In Washington state, you have the right to make your own health care decisions.
- It is important to let others know your wishes for treatment should you ever be unable to express them.

- You may never need it but if you do you'll be grateful it's there!
- Tucked out of sight
- Provides peace of mind
- Protection for everyone
- Without one, there could be problems
- With one you're always prepared

Advance Directives

- The term 'advance directive' refers to your oral and written instructions about your future health care in the event you are unable to express your wishes.
- There are two types of advance directives: a **health care directive** (or living will) and a **durable power of attorney for health care**.

Durable power of attorney for health care

- Who would you want making your health care decisions if you were unable?
- The person you choose should be a trusted family member or friend with whom you have discussed your values and understands your wishes as a Christian Scientist regarding treatment choices.

Health care directive (Living will)

The health care directive allows people who do not want their lives artificially prolonged to make their wishes known.

Do I need both directives?

- Durable Power of Attorney – provides flexibility regarding treatment decisions since the person you choose to represent your wishes will be able to respond to unexpected changes in your condition and base decisions not just on your written wishes but also on their familiarity with you and your feelings regarding your care.

Do I need both directives?

- Health Care Directive/Living Will – provides instruction in case your health care POA is unable to serve, provides evidence that your POA is acting in good faith in case the decisions are challenged, or serves as the primary record of your wishes.

Who can make decisions for me if I'm unable?

- A guardian with health care decision-making authority, if one has been appointed
- The person named in the durable power of attorney with health care decision-making authority
- Your spouse
- Your adult children
- Your parents
- Your adult brothers and sisters

Why is it important to make your wishes known?

- When there is more than one person, such as children, parents, or brothers and sisters, all must agree on the health care decision.
- Making your wishes known in an advance directive will provide your loved ones and your agent the clear guidance necessary to respect your wishes.

Example

6. Special Provisions.

In exercising the powers set out herein with respect to my health care, my Health Care Agent shall be governed by the following provisions:

6.1. I hereby declare that I am a Christian Scientist and adhere to the tenants and practices of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts. In accordance with those tenants and practices, I hereby elect to rely exclusively on spiritual means for healing in the event of any physical or mental problem or for any care or treatment therefore. Accordingly, my Health Care Agent shall have the authority to request and authorize treatment of any health problems, physical or mental, experienced by me, exclusively by prayer or spiritual means in accord with the tenants and practices of the Christian Science religion.

6.2. I hereby specify that in the event of such a need, I be treated by an accredited Christian Science practitioner. I further specify that if I need any physical care, it be provided, if possible, by an accredited Christian Science nurse and/or at a Christian Science nursing or care facility, as the case may require.

6.3. I further authorize my Health Care Agent to refuse any medical care or treatment whatsoever, and I make these elections in good faith in the exercise of my sincerely held religious beliefs and convictions.

6.4. I desire that my wishes as expressed in this instrument be carried out through the authority given to my Health Care Agent despite any contrary feelings, beliefs, or opinions of members of my family, my friends, my guardian, or health care providers.

Do I need an advance directive?

- Advance directives are the best possible assurance that decisions regarding your future health care will reflect your own wishes, in the event that you are unable to voice these wishes.
- For this reason, every person aged 18 or over should prepare a directive.

Are advance directives legal?

Yes. There are federal and state laws that govern the use of advance directives. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws recognizing the use of advance directives.

What to do with these forms

Signed copies of your completed directives should be given to the person to whom you give your durable power of attorney and to your personal attorney.

Originals should be in a safe but accessible place (not a safe deposit box) or given to someone you trust.

Discuss your wishes

It is essential that you have honest and open discussions with your appointed health care POA, family and friends about your wishes concerning health care treatment. Discuss your wishes with them so they know and understand what you want.

Can I change/revoke my directive?

You can always revoke one or both of your Washington state directives. If you choose to revoke your documents, make sure you notify your health care agent, alternate agents, and your family. If you wish to make changes to the directives, you should complete new documents.

Where to get advance directives

An attorney is the best place to have these documents drawn up and executed.

Will advance directives be recognized in emergencies?

No. During most emergencies, there is not enough time for emergency service personnel to consult the patient's advance directive. Once the patient is under the direct care of a physician, there will be time for the advance directive to be evaluated and/or the health care agent to be consulted.

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