

It is wise to name a back-up person, should your surrogate cannot be reached. You do not need to be at the end of your life. He or she can speak for you if you were in a coma, but are likely to recover.

A **DNR** form is a form completed by you and your physician that tells medical staff not to perform potential life saving measures such as CPR, if your heart and lungs stop working. Medical staff should only make you comfortable and try to ease your pain. They are not to use cardiac compression, advance airway support or cardiac assistive devices to keep you alive.

What is an Anatomical Donation?

It is a document that indicates your wish to donate at death, all or part of your body. This can be an organ and tissue donation to persons in need, or donation of your body for training of health care workers. You can indicate your choice to be an organ donor by designating it on your driver's license or state identification card, signing a uniform donor form, or expressing your wish in a living will.

If you would like to learn more on organ and tissue donation, please visit www.DonateLifeFlorida.org where you can become organ, tissue and eye donors online.



ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

Every competent adult has the right to make decisions concerning his or her own health, including the right to choose or refuse medical treatment.

If you are at least 18 years and mentally and physically able to make decisions, you can express and make your medical wishes known in advance through advance directives. You do not have to complete these forms, however, if you need medical treatment and you cannot express your wishes, your closest family member will be asked to make decisions for you.

Advance Directives include living wills, durable power of attorney, a healthcare surrogate designation, an Anatomical Donation and “do not resuscitate” (DNR) forms.

By using a directive, you give specific, clear, written instructions relating to the provision of your healthcare in certain situations that states who will make healthcare decisions for you if you are unable to speak for yourself, or designate a person to act on your behalf in decision making, or a combination of the two in the event you are no longer able to make decisions concerning your healthcare.

Currently Florida law does not require that you use an attorney to complete an advance directive or have the forms notarized; however advance directives must be witness by two people and be recorded and file. One of the witnesses must be someone who is not your spouse, blood relative, heir, or person responsible for paying your medical bills.

However, if you have any questions concerning the legal effect of these documents or any other aspect of this matter, you should consult your attorney.

You can change your advance directive at any time, just rewrite it and destroy previous or outdated copies and provide copies of the updated version to the appropriate people. You should take a copy with you when you are being admitted to a hospital.

Advance directives from other states are valid in Florida State. Your physician and designated individual(s) should have copies of your advance directives. If you cannot talk or answer questions, your physician or the individual(s) you assigned will be able to read your directions.

Currently in the state of Florida, the standard **living will** is an oral statement or a form with written instructions. It tells healthcare providers what medical treatment, decisions or life prolonging

treatments you would or would not want should you become unable to make decision for yourself. It can also express your wishes to make anatomical donation after death.

A Living Will takes effect **only** when you can no longer express your wishes yourself or when two physicians caring for you agree that you will not recover or your condition is terminal.

Healthcare Surrogate or a Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare

is an individual you choose to make healthcare decisions for you if you are not able to do so for yourself.

- This individual does not have to be a family member.
- He or she should be an adult, at least 18 years old.
- Someone you trust.
- Someone who knows your wishes and who will make decisions based on your treatment choices and not his or her own preferences.
- He or she does not have control over your money and can't be made to pay your bills.

Your local hospital, nursing home, hospice, home health agency, and your attorney or health care provider may be able to assist you with forms or further information.

Brochure: End of Life Issues
www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov
(888) 419-3456