

JEWISH TRADITION HOME CARE

HEALTH CARE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES THE PATIENT'S RIGHT TO DECIDE

All adult individuals in health care facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, home health agencies, and health maintenance organizations, have certain rights under State Law.

You have a right to fill out a paper known as an "Advance Directive." The paper says in advance what kind of treatment you want or do not want under special medical conditions in which you would be unable to make or communicate your own decisions. For example, if you were taken to a health care facility in a coma, would you want the facility's staff to know your specific wishes about decisions affecting your treatment?

WHAT IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

An Advance Directive is a written or oral statement which is made and witnessed in advance of serious illness or injury, about how you want medical decisions made. It allows you to state your choices about health care or to name someone to make those choices for you, if you become unable to make decisions about your medical treatment. An Advance Directive can enable you to make decisions about your future medical treatment. Three forms of Advance Directives are:

1. Living Will;
2. Health Care Surrogate Designation;
3. Do Not Resuscitate Order.

LIVING WILL

A Living Will is a statement of your wishes regarding the use of life-prolonging treatment if you are in a terminal condition. It is called a "Living Will" because it takes effect while you are still living. You may wish to speak to an attorney or physician to be certain you have completed the Living Will in a way so that your wishes will be understood.

HEALTH CARE SURROGATE DESIGNATION

A "Health Care Surrogate Designation" is a paper naming another person such as a husband, wife, daughter, son or close friend as your agent to make medical decisions for you if you should become unable to make them for yourself. You may name this person in a Living Will, in which case such person would make **only those medical decisions related to serious illness that could cause death.** If you want to name someone you trust to make all **other** medical decisions for you when you are too sick to do so yourself you should fill out a "Designation of Health Care Surrogate" form. This person can be the same person named in your Living Will to make decisions for you when you are in a terminal condition. You can include specific instructions about any treatment you want or wish to avoid. It is advisable to name a replacement in case the person you have chosen is unavailable when decisions must be made.

DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER

A Do Not Resuscitate Order is a written medical order prepared by your physician that documents instructions that cardiopulmonary resuscitation is to be withheld in the event you suffer cardiac or respiratory arrest. These instructions may be given by you or by your designated Health Care Surrogate, appointed proxy or guardian on your behalf. To be honored by emergency medical personnel, this order must be on a special form and displayed in one of only four locations in the home.

If you decide to complete an Advance Directive, it is recommended that you give a copy to your doctor, your closest relative or friend and any hospital or facility where you are receiving treatment or care. If you change your mind, make sure that you do advise all those to whom you have given copies.

It is the policy of Jewish Tradition Home Care to address any Advance Directives with the patient and his/her physician. Jewish Tradition Home Care respects the right of the individual patient to execute Advance Directives and will work with the patient and his physician to honor these directives within the law. If Jewish Tradition Home Care cannot implement an Advance Directive on the basis of conscience we will transfer the patient to another health care provider, as appropriate.