

About Advance Directive for Health Care

We encourage you to keep an up-to-date Advance Directive. Once complete, you should (1) provide a copy to your physician(s); (2) keep a copy in your personal files where it is accessible to others; (3) tell your closest relatives and friends what is in the document; (4) provide a copy to the person(s) you named as your health care agent.

The most up-to-date Advance Directive for Health Care forms can be found online at TN.gov. A quick link to the Advance Directive Forms and Frequently Asked Questions can be found by visiting northcrest.com under Patients and Visitors > Patient Information & Forms.

What is a Living Will or Advance Directive for Health Care?

An Advance Directive for Health Care is a document that tells your doctor how you want to be treated if you are terminally ill or permanently unconscious. You can use the Advance Directive for Health Care form to tell your doctor you want to avoid life-prolonging interventions such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), kidney dialysis or breathing machines. You can use this form to tell your doctor you want to be pain free and comfortable at the end of your life. You may also add other special instructions or limitations in your form.

Do I need a lawyer to create an Advance Directive for Health Care?

No. An Advance Directive for Health Care form can be created without the assistance of a lawyer.

What is Medical Power of Attorney?

A Medical Power of Attorney is a legal instrument that allows you to select the person that you want to make healthcare decisions for you if and when you become unable to make them for yourself. The person you pick is representative for purposes of healthcare decision-making. Within the Advance Directive for Health Care form, you may name an “agent” or “alternate agent” to make healthcare decisions for you.

What if I already have the old form, “Living Will”? Do I need to create an Advance Directive for Health Care?

The new form, Advance Directive for Health Care, developed for use has more detailed instructions and may best express your desires so one may want to create a new advance directive document. If the new Advance Directive for Health Care form is not created, the old Living Will form will be honored. The Advance Directive for Health Care is a more flexible document and allows you to name someone to make decisions for you and provides directives for care if your quality of life becomes unacceptable.

Visit TN.gov to learn more about Advance Directives.

