

Making a Difficult Decision Easier for Your Family

As technology and medical advances extend the average American's life span, it is important that you document your wishes for end-of-life medical treatment. Making your wishes known to physicians and family will spare them the burden of making a complicated decision during a difficult time.



Advance Directives

Advance directives are legal documents that describe the type of medical treatment you want when you are unable to make decisions or communicate your wishes. Living wills and durable powers of attorney are two types of advance directives that specify the type of treatment you want in various situations.

- **Living Will**

A living will takes effect when you are terminally ill and unable to express your wishes about your care. It documents the type of treatment you want, but it does not let you designate someone to make decisions for you.

- **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care**

A durable power of attorney for health care identifies the person you wish to make health care decisions for you. It becomes active any time you are unconscious or unable to make medical decisions.

Changing Your Advance Directive

You may change or cancel your advance directive at any time, as long as you are considered of sound mind to do so. Your changes must be made and executed according to the laws in your state. Make sure your doctor and any family members who knew about your directives are also aware of any changes.

Living wills and durable powers of attorney can guide your loved ones and doctors if you are unable to make decisions about your medical care. Even if you are in good health, you should consider writing an advance directive. Accidents and serious illnesses can happen suddenly. If you have a signed advance directive, your wishes are more likely to be followed.

Legal Assistance is Available

Laws about advance directives, living wills and health care powers of attorney differ by state. That is why it is important to consult your attorney, who can help you prepare these documents. When choosing your benefit options, be sure to consider the Group Legal Plan.* Preparation of wills and living wills is covered in full under the Legal Plan. For more information, call the Hyatt Legal Plans Client Service Center at **800-821-6400** or visit the web site at **www.legalplans.com**.



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