

Advance Directives



What Are Advance Directives?

Advance directives are legal documents that state **your choices for health care, or name someone to make those decisions**, if you are unable to make your wishes known in the future because of illness or injury.

What are My Options for Advance Directives?

There are **four types** of advance directives. You can execute one, or several, depending on your needs and situation. Share copies with your doctor and your family, and take copies with you to the hospital.

Directive to Physicians and Family or Surrogates

- This directive allows you to specify for the provision, withdrawal or withholding of medical care in the event of a terminal or irreversible condition.
- Your condition must be certified by one physician.

Medical Power of Attorney

- This directive allows you to designate another person as your agent for making health care decisions if you become incompetent.
- You do not have to have a terminal or irreversible condition for a medical power of attorney to be used.

Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order

- This directive allows competent adults to refuse certain life-sustaining treatments in non-hospital settings where health care professionals are called to assist, including hospital ERs and outpatient settings.
- You should carry a photocopy of your written form or wear a designated ID bracelet.
- This directive cannot be executed for minors unless a physician states the minor has a terminal or irreversible condition.
- Note: The PDF form in English must be properly executed in accordance with the instructions on the opposite side (download Spanish instructions separately) to be considered a valid form by emergency medical services personnel.

Declaration of Mental Health Treatment

- This directive allows a court to determine when you become incapacitated, and when that declaration becomes effective.
- You may opt not to consent to electro-convulsive therapy or to the use of psychoactive drugs.
- The declaration expires in three years, unless you are incapacitated at that time.

Laws governing advanced directive may change from time to time. These documents and decisions about these documents should be made in consultation with your family and/or friends and with consultation from an attorney.

This information was taken from the Texas Medical Association. For more information and for each of the forms listed above consult your attorney or you can visit the Texas Hospital Association website at <http://www.tha.org/AdvanceDirectives> or you can visit the full website at www.tha.org.

Compassionate Healthcare is locally owned and operated home health care company that provides high-quality, personalized non-medical care in your place of residence. Call (817) 570-9901 for a free in-home assessment.

Content is provided as informational material and should be used with other information in consultation with legal advice before making any decisions.