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Advance Directives for Health Care/Living Will

An Advance Directive, or “Living Will”, is a legal document giving instructions about the medical treatment and care you want to receive if you later become incapacitated or in a medical state with no hope for recovery. Advance directives in New Jersey include the following documents:

Proxy Directive (Power of Attorney for Health Care): You may select someone, such as a friend, your spouse or other family member, to be your health care representative. This person can then make decisions about your medical treatment if you ever become so sick you're unable to make or communicate these decisions for yourself

Instructions for Health Care (Living Will): You can give instructions about the medical care you do or don't want to receive if you become incapacitated. You can indicate whether you want life-sustaining treatment, like artificial respiration or feeding tubes, to be withheld or withdrawn if you become terminally ill and near death or permanently unconscious.

You must sign and date your advance directive in front of two adult witnesses or a notary public or another person authorized to administer oaths. The person you designate to be your health care representative cannot act as a witness.