

Completing Your Updated Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare

Advance Directives are legal documents informing others of your wishes relative to medical treatment and who can make decisions for you when you are unable to do so.

The Idaho statutory Living Will and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare are combined as one document. The North Idaho Palliative Care Coalition recently created an updated document based on the Idaho statutory Advance Directive form. The update was prepared in order to make the document easier to understand, and to offer the opportunity to document wishes for situations in which death is not imminent; but in which significant changes in quality of life have occurred due to injury or illness.

You do not have to fill out every section, and the document is valid even if you leave a section or sections blank.

Your name and the date you are signing the document MUST be provided at the beginning of the document.

A Living Will is a legal document that tells the doctor and other healthcare providers whether or not you wish to have life-sustaining treatment and procedures provided if you are in a terminal condition or persistent vegetative state, and the level to which such treatment should be provided. The Living Will can also contain other specific directions about care.

A Living Will is not the same as a “Do Not Resuscitate” order. In order to have a Do Not Resuscitate order outside of the hospital that will be honored by EMS, you must complete a POST DNR that is signed by your physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Living Will

- A choice needs to be made about whether you want life-sustaining medical treatment, including artificial hydration and artificial nutrition. You should choose (1), (2) or (3), check the box next to that choice and initial.
- **Special Provisions section** – This section is optional. You may choose either or both options by checking the corresponding box(es) and initialing, and you can specify detailed choices in the free text box.
- **Idaho Post Form Verification section** – Indicate in this section whether or not you have completed a POST form by checking the appropriate box and initialing.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care is a legal document in which you can appoint another person (agent) to make medical decisions for you if you should become temporarily or permanently unable to make those decisions. The Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care applies to medical decisions only. The “job” of your Agent is to advise your health care team what your wishes are, and to advocate for the treatment consistent with your wishes.

1. Identify your primary Health Care Agent. Name, address and telephone number of the Agent must be provided.

2. Although not required, it is strongly suggested that you identify one or more alternate Health Care Agents. Name, address and telephone number for each alternate Agent must be provided.

You must sign the form. No witnesses or notarization are required in the State of Idaho.

*This document was developed as a collaboration by the members of the North Idaho Palliative Care Coalition.
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