

Creating a Directive to Physicians, or “Living Will”

In addition to talking to your doctors, family, and friends, you should put your wishes in writing. One of the documents you can use is the Living Will, also known as a Directive to Physicians or Health Care Directive.

The Living Will is a directive to doctors and families stating a person’s decision to refuse life-sustaining medical treatment if the person has a terminal illness or illness/injury that leaves him or her permanently unconscious. This directive lets your doctor withhold or stop life-sustaining treatment. You will still get comfort care.

The right to create a Living Will is established in Washington state’s Natural Death Act.

To complete a Living Will, fill out the form on the next page. ***In order for this form to be legal, you must have two witnesses sign your form.***

Your witnesses must:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Know you.
- Watch you sign the form.

Your witnesses cannot:

- Be related to you by blood or marriage.
- Be your health care agent, doctor, nurse, or social worker.
- Benefit financially or receive any money after you die.
- Work at the place in which you live (such as staff at an assisted living facility).