

Communicate



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FINANCIAL FUTURE**

Organize, Communicate, Prepare

Health Care Directives

**Advance Directives
for Health Care**

Name of Facilitator, Title
Organization

Name of Speaker

Your university logo can
be inserted here

Designed for use in the *Legally Secure Your Financial Future* program. Originally developed by Carol A. Schwab, J.D., LL.M., Professor and Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University Extension

**What are Advance Directives for
Health Care?**

- Documents in which you give instructions about your health care if, in the future, you cannot speak for yourself.
- Two parts
 - Living Will
 - Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

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Advance Directives for Health Care

- Living Will
 - you state your wishes about life-sustaining medical treatments if you are terminally ill.
- Health Care Power of Attorney
 - you appoint someone else to make medical treatment decisions for you if you cannot make them for yourself.

Living Will Options

- All medical treatment, care, nutrition, and hydration be provided.
- If artificial life sustaining procedures artificially prolong life, procedures withheld *except* for nutrition and/or hydration.
- If artificial life sustaining procedures artificially prolong life, procedures withheld *including* withdrawal of nutrition and hydration.

With No Living Will

- Family members make some or all health care decisions
 - Problems occur if family members:
 - don't know your wishes
 - disagree about best course of action
- Hospital physician who doesn't know you may become your decision-maker

Patient Self-Determination Act

December 1991 - your legal rights regarding Living Wills and Power of Attorney for Health Care were spelled out.



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Question 1 – True or False?

- After a patient is connected to life support systems, it is legally difficult to withdraw him or her from the life support system.



False



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Question 2 – True or False?

- Without a living will, the doctors and hospital must put and keep a terminally and incurably ill patient on life support systems, regardless of the cost.

False



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Question 3 – True or False?



- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) must be given a copy of your living will if they are called to resuscitate you.

False



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Question 4 – True or False?



- If you have a living will, you should also have a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order.

False



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Question 5 – True or False?

- You revoke your living will by tearing it up.



False



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Question 6 – True or False?

- Your health care agent has the right to make all health care decisions on your behalf under a health care durable power of attorney and can make decisions over your objections.

False



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Question 7 – True or False?

- More often than not, it is one or more family members who prevent a patient's living will from being honored by the doctor and medical provider.

True



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Question 8 – True or False?

- A living will from another state is not valid in this state.

False



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Question 9 – True or False?

- A hospital or nursing home can insist that someone being admitted must sign a living will.



False



Question 10 – True or False?

- The law is more concerned about protecting doctors than it is about honoring a patient's wishes.



False



Question 11 – True or False?



- The Power of Attorney for health care must always be a family member if one is available.

False



Question 12 – True or False?



- The Power of Attorney for health care may be shared by more than one family member.

True



Question 13 – True or False?



- An attorney must be used to draw up a legal living will.

False



Credits

This lesson was developed by the
Legally Secure Your Financial Future:
Organize, Communicate, Prepare team.

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Information is available at www.csrees.usda.gov/fsll



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