Lifecare

Representative Health Care Directives

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Lifecare

Representative Advance Health Care Directives

Preserving
Health Care Rights
for Those You Love
Who Cannot Speak for
Themselves

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Lifecare Directives, LLC is pleased to offer the "Lifecare Representative Health Care Directive," designed specifically to guide families needing to make advance planning decisions for a loved one who is no longer able to make health care decisions for themselves.

There are now 32 states and at least four territories with health care surrogate consent statutes for individuals who have never completed an advance directive. An additional 5 have incidentally supportive statutes, attorney general policy statements, guiding "case law" (from court rulings), or other resources to direct the decision-making process.

Other states require guardianship and/or court approval for decisions regarding medical treatment or the withholding and withdrawing of lifesustaining medical care. Even in these states, however, the legal system leans heavily on family members who may have some idea of what an individual may have wanted.

Virtually all states recognize the

need for advance decision-making in these matters, and even advance court orders for concerns that might otherwise urgently arise (if court involvement is required). As one state supreme court put it, without *advance* decisions, life-sustaining treatments must *always* be used, or at least begun, as "there will be no time to get...authorization [to withhold them]...once an emergency arises." The court therefore found that failing to make *advance* decisions amounted to "a decision by default" (In re Guardianship of Grant, 109 Wash.2d 545, 747 P.2d 445 (1987)).

It is far better for families to come together well in advance to make carefully considered and heartfelt choices in the best interests of someone they love, than to wait until stressful emergencies arise when extended family discussions may no longer be possible. The Representative Health Care Directive is designed to accomplish this advance planning with a minimum of confusion and decision-making neglect.

It also guides families through the representative selection process (or consensus building, which ever is required), and minimizes the potential for conflict by providing the requisite criteria for arriving at proper conclusions.

The Representative Advance Directive is the result of more than 10 years of rigorous research. It's development involved the review of more than 6,000 articles from medical journals, legal publications, and the popular press, the review of all relevant state and most territorial statutes, and the comparative review of more than 100 independently designed advance directives.

Further, it was reviewed by literally scores of physicians, nurses, elder law attorneys, ethics specialists, and many other scientific and secondary researchers. Finally, more than 1,000 members of the general public participated in university-directed research to ensure that the document comprehensively covered all necessary content.

Thus, family members can rest assured that by using the Representative Advance Directive, they will have thoroughly and methodically covered key health care issues of profound importance to their loved one and/or the courts, if court involvement ever becomes necessary.

To purchase a copy of this directive, or to purchase other related materials, please contact Lifecare Directives at:

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