

DOWNLOAD COVERSHEET:

This is a standard advance directive for your state, made available to you as a courtesy by Lifecare Directives, LLC. You should be aware that extensive research has demonstrated that there are significant drawbacks to using a very brief state-standard document. As one researcher has noted, “the development of statutory forms occurs in the legislative arena, [so] their content is the result of a political rather than a ‘scientific’ process.” Because of “political compromise, ...many of the forms ultimately passed by the legislatures are not optimal from a consumer perspective” (see: Hoffmann, Diane E; Zimmerman, S; Tompkins, C. The dangers of directives, or the false security of forms. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. 1996;24(1) (Spring):5-17).

American Bar Association concurs, noting that “The statutory advance directive is not necessarily the exclusive, or even the best, pathway for individuals to follow,” and suggesting that revised and enhanced documents “may be especially helpful as a...replacement for statutory forms where restrictions in a statutory directive prevents the individual from fully expressing his or her wishes” (see: American Bar Association. (1991). *Patient Self Determination Act State Law Guide*. Government printing office, Washington, DC).

Lifecare Directives staff have reviewed more than 6,000 medical, legal, academic, and news media articles on advance directives, as well as reviewing hundreds of document forms. They have also conducted formal research with scores of medical, legal, and academic professionals along with more than 1,000 lay public participants. From this process, more than 30 additional key living will and medical power of attorney enhancements have been identified that should be included in any living will (or “health care instruction” or “declaration”) and medical power of attorney (or “proxy”) forms that you may use.

Please consider obtaining the *Lifecare Advance Healthcare Directive* to obtain these important additions and benefits. To better understand the important enhancements available through this combined living will and medical power of attorney, you may wish to obtain the booklet, “*Should I Use a Shorter Standard Directive?*” available through Lifecare Directives, LLC.

If you have any other questions about this document or other Lifecare resources, please do not hesitate to contact our staff who will make every effort to fully respond your inquiries and address any questions you may have. We can be reached at the following:

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~ Lifecare Directives ~



*Statutory
Advance Directive*

*For
Texas Residents*



*Standard State Statutory
Advance Directive for
Health Care Choices*

~ Lifecare Directives ~

*Statutory
Advance Directive*

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Important Notice:

An advance directive is not a substitute for medical, legal or other necessary advice or direction. This document should not be construed as offering counseling, medical, legal, financial, or estate planning or advice, nor any other similar guidance or direction. Such counsel should be obtained from qualified, certified, and licensed professionals in your locale who are experienced in the specific areas of concern. Completion of this document constitutes acceptance of its content both in whole and in part, as well as a determination of its utility for the purposes indicated. Lifecare Directives, LLC, and all involved in this document's design, publication, and distribution assume no liability for its use, including that which may arise from omissions, technical inaccuracies, and typographical errors. Diligent efforts notwithstanding, this document is not warranted to be in compliance with state and local laws. All warranties, including those of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement are expressly disclaimed. The utilizer agrees to seek appropriate outside review prior to completion. The utilizer and all heirs, assigns, designees, devisees, representatives, and all others involved, agree to assume all liability for its use and any subsequent outcomes, and to release and hold harmless all involved in its design, publication, advertising and distribution. The utilizer also agrees that any physician, health care provider, agent, proxy, surrogate, representative, mediator, court officer, and all others relying on the document's content are similarly free of all liability, when they act in good faith and with due diligence to follow the recorded wishes and directions.

Statutory Advance Directive For Texas Residents

Print Full Name

Date of Birth

Your right (when age 18 or older): To Document Your Personal Wishes,
and to have these wishes followed ~~

The Texas state legislature has designed living will (*Directive to Physicians and Family or Surrogates*) as well as a *Medical Power of Attorney* for use by the public. The statutes note that a living will Directive “may be in” the form provided by the legislature, whereas the Medical Power of Attorney “must be in substantially” the form provided. Should you want to complete a more comprehensive living will, or to enhance the content of your Medical Power of Attorney, you should contact staff at Lifecare Directives, LLC, in order to obtain these alternate documents.

This material was designed by your state government, and thus it is in full compliance with all applicable statutes and laws. There is an introduction that summarizes the scope and purpose of the document, as well as providing directions for its completion. Read it carefully to ensure that your documents are fully and properly filled out.

By completing your directives, you can have the peace of mind that many of your wishes are known and can be followed. It is also a meaningful gift to those you love. Your completed directive will help ensure that your loved ones will have to make fewer difficult choices for you without having an understanding of what you would want done.

Understanding Your Directive (the following instructions were provided by the state legislature as an introduction to your Texas Directive):

This is an important legal document. It is designed to help you communicate your wishes about medical treatment at some time in the future when you are unable to make your wishes known because of illness or injury. These wishes are usually based on personal values. In particular, you may want to consider what burdens or hardships of treatment you would be willing to accept for a particular amount of benefit obtained if you were seriously ill.

You are encouraged to discuss your values and wishes with your family or chosen spokesperson, as well as your physician. Your physician, other health care provider, or medical institution may provide you with various resources to assist you in completing your advance directive. Brief definitions are listed below, which may aid you in your discussions and advance planning.

Important Definitions:

1. "Artificial nutrition and hydration" means the provision of nutrients or fluids by a tube inserted in a vein, under the skin in the subcutaneous tissues, or surgically implanted into the stomach or intestines (the “gastrointestinal” tract).

2. "Irreversible condition" means a condition, injury, or illness: (1) that may be treated, but is never cured or eliminated; (2) that leaves a person unable to care for or make decisions for the person's own self; and (3) that, without life-sustaining treatment provided in accordance with the prevailing standard of medical care, is fatal.

Explanation: Many serious illnesses such as cancer, failure of major organs (kidney, heart, liver, or lung), and serious brain disease such as Alzheimer's dementia may be considered irreversible early on. There is no cure, but the patient may be kept alive for prolonged periods of time if the patient receives life-sustaining treatments. Late in the course of the same illness, the disease may be considered terminal when, even with treatment, the patient is expected to die. You may wish to consider which burdens of treatment you would be willing to accept in an effort to achieve a particular outcome. This is a very personal decision that you may wish to discuss with your physician, family, or other important persons in your life.

3. "Life-sustaining treatment" means treatment that, based on reasonable medical judgment, sustains the life of a patient and without which the patient will die. The term includes both life-sustaining medications and artificial life support such as mechanical breathing machines, kidney dialysis treatment, and artificial hydration and nutrition. The term does not include the administration of pain management medication, the performance of a medical procedure necessary to provide comfort care, or any other medical care provided to alleviate a patient's pain.

4. "Terminal condition" means an incurable condition caused by injury, disease, or illness that according to reasonable medical judgment will produce death within six months, even with available life-sustaining treatment provided in accordance with the prevailing standard of medical care.

Explanation: Many serious illnesses may be considered irreversible early in the course of the illness, but they may not be considered terminal until the disease is fairly advanced. In thinking about terminal illness and its treatment, you again may wish to consider the relative benefits and burdens of treatment and discuss your wishes with your physician, family, or other important persons in your life.

Further Directions:

Initial the treatment choices that best reflect your personal preferences. Provide a copy of your directive to your physician, usual hospital, and family or spokesperson. Consider a periodic review of this document. By periodic review, you can best assure that the directive reflects your preferences. In addition to this advance directive, Texas law provides for two other types of directives that can be important during a serious illness. These are the Medical Power of Attorney and the Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order. You may wish to discuss these with your physician, family, hospital representative, or other advisers. You may also wish to complete a directive related to the donation of organs and tissues.

**DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS
AND FAMILY OR SURROGATES**

(Texas Health & Safety Code, Title 2, §166.001 to §166.166)

I, _____, recognize that the best health care is based upon a partnership of trust and communication with my physician. My physician and I will make health care decisions together as long as I am of sound mind and able to make my wishes known. If there comes a time that I am unable to make medical decisions about myself because of illness or injury, I direct that the following treatment preferences be honored:

Terminal Conditions:

If, in the judgment of my physician, I am suffering with a terminal condition from which I am expected to die within six months, even with available life-sustaining treatment provided in accordance with prevailing standards of medical care:

(initial only one)

_____ I request that all treatments other than those needed to keep me comfortable be discontinued or withheld and my physician allow me to die as gently as possible; **OR,**

_____ I request that I be kept alive in this terminal condition using available life-sustaining treatment. *(This Selection Does Not Apply to Hospice Care.)*

Incapacitating Irreversible Conditions:

If, in the judgment of my physician, I am suffering with an irreversible condition so that I cannot care for myself or make decisions for myself and am expected to die without life-sustaining treatment provided in accordance with prevailing standards of care:

(initial only one)

_____ I request that all treatments other than those needed to keep me comfortable be discontinued or withheld and my physician allow me to die as gently as possible;

OR,

_____ I request that I be kept alive in this irreversible condition using available life-sustaining treatment. *(This Selection Does Not Apply to Hospice Care.)*

Additional requests:

After discussion with your physician, you may wish to consider listing particular treatments in this space that you do or do not want in specific circumstances, such as artificial nutrition and fluids, intravenous antibiotics, etc. Be sure to state whether you do or do not want the particular treatment.

Regarding Hospice Care:

After signing this directive, if my representative or I elect hospice care, I understand and agree that only those treatments needed to keep me comfortable would be provided and I would not be given available life-sustaining treatments.

Health Care Proxy Appointment:

If I do not have a Medical Power of Attorney, and I am unable to make my wishes known, I designate the following person(s) to make treatment decisions with my physician compatible with my personal values (*if a Medical Power of Attorney has been executed in Section II, then an agent already has been named and you should not list additional names in this document*):

Name of Proxy: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

If for any reason the above named individual is not available, able, or willing to represent me, then I designate the following persons – *each to act alone and successively* – to represent me in place of this first individual.

Name of Alternate #1: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Alternate #2: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

If all of the above persons are not available, or if I have not designated a spokesperson, I understand that a spokesperson will be chosen for me following standards specified in the statutes and laws of Texas.

Regarding Imminent Dying:

If, in the judgment of my physician, my death is imminent (within minutes to hours), even with the use of all available medical treatment provided within the prevailing standard of care, I acknowledge that all treatments may be withheld or removed except those needed to maintain my comfort.

Regarding Pregnancy:

I understand that under Texas law this directive has no effect if I have been diagnosed as pregnant.

Signature of Principal:

This directive will remain in effect until I revoke it. No other person may do so.

Signed _____ Date _____

Residence Address _____

Required Witnesses and Eligibility:

Two competent adult witnesses must sign below, acknowledging the signature of the declarant. The witness designated as Witness 1 may not be a person designated to make a treatment decision for the patient *and* may not be related to the patient by blood or marriage. This witness may not be entitled to any part of the estate and may not have a claim against the estate of the patient. This witness may not be the attending physician nor an employee of the attending physician. If this witness is an employee of a health care facility in which the patient is being cared for, this witness may not be involved in providing direct patient care to the patient. This witness may not be an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of a health care facility in which the patient is being cared for, nor of any parent organization of the health care facility.

Witness #1: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Witness #2: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

**TEXAS MEDICAL POWER
OF ATTORNEY**

(Texas Health & Safety Code Title 2: §166.163-§166.166)

Required Texas Introduction:

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY:
THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT. BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU SHOULD
KNOW THESE IMPORTANT FACTS:

Except to the extent you state otherwise, this document gives the person you name as your agent the authority to make any and all health care decisions for you in accordance with your wishes, including your religious and moral beliefs, when you are no longer capable of making them yourself. Because "health care" means any treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat your physical or mental condition, your agent has the power to make a broad range of health care decisions for you. Your agent may consent, refuse to consent, or withdraw consent to medical treatment and may make decisions about withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment. Your agent may not consent to voluntary inpatient mental health services, convulsive treatment, psychosurgery, or abortion. A physician must comply with your agent's instructions or allow you to be transferred to another physician.

Your agent's authority begins when your doctor certifies that you lack the competence to make health care decisions.

Your agent is obligated to follow your instructions when making decisions on your behalf. Unless you state otherwise, your agent has the same authority to make decisions about your health care as you would have had.

It is important that you discuss this document with your physician or other health care provider before you sign it to make sure that you understand the nature and range of decisions that may be made on your behalf. If you do not have a physician, you should talk with someone else who is knowledgeable about these issues and can answer your questions. You do not need a lawyer's assistance to complete this document, but if there is anything in this document that you do not understand, you should ask a lawyer to explain it to you.

The person you appoint as agent should be someone you know and trust. The person must be 18 years of age or older or a person under 18 years of age who has had the disabilities of minority removed. If you appoint your health or residential care provider (e.g., your physician or an employee of a home health agency, hospital, nursing home, or residential care home, other than a relative), that person has to choose between acting as your agent or as your health or residential care provider; the law does not permit a person to do both at the same time.

You should inform the person you appoint that you want the person to be your health care agent. You should discuss this document with your agent and your physician and give each a signed copy. You should indicate on the document itself the people and institutions who have signed copies. Your agent is not liable for health care decisions made in good faith on your behalf.

Even after you have signed this document, you have the right to make health care decisions for yourself as long as you are able to do so and treatment cannot be given to you or stopped over your objection. You have the right to revoke the authority granted to your agent by

informing your agent or your health or residential care provider orally or in writing or by your execution of a subsequent medical power of attorney. Unless you state otherwise, your appointment of a spouse dissolves on divorce.

This document may not be changed or modified. If you want to make changes in the document, you must make an entirely new one.

You may wish to designate an alternate agent in the event that your agent is unwilling, unable, or ineligible to act as your agent. Any alternate agent you designate has the same authority to make health care decisions for you.

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IS NOT VALID UNLESS IT IS SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO COMPETENT ADULT WITNESSES. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS MAY NOT ACT AS ONE OF THE WITNESSES:

(1) the person you have designated as your agent; (2) a person related to you by blood or marriage; (3) a person entitled to any part of your estate after your death under a will or codicil executed by you or by operation of law; (4) your attending physician; (5) an employee of your attending physician; (6) an employee of a health care facility in which you are a patient if the employee is providing direct patient care to you or is an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of the health care facility or of any parent organization of the health care facility; or (7) a person who, at the time this power of attorney is executed, has a claim against any part of your estate after your death.

MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE AGENT

Designation of Agent:

I, _____ (*insert your name*) do appoint:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

as my agent to make any and all health care decisions for me, except to the extent I state otherwise in this document. This medical power of attorney takes effect if I become unable to make my own health care decisions and this fact is verified by my physician.

LIMITATIONS ON THE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY OF MY AGENT ARE AS FOLLOWS: _____

Designation of Alternate Agent: (*You are not required to designate an alternate agent, but you may do so. An alternate agent may make the same health care decisions as the designated agent if the designated agent is unable or unwilling to act as your agent. If the agent designated is your spouse, the designation is automatically revoked by law if your marriage is dissolved.*)

If the person designated as my agent is unable or unwilling to make health care decisions for me, I designate the following persons to serve as my agent to make health care decisions for me as authorized by this document, who serve in the following order:

A. First Alternate Agent:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

B. Second Alternate Agent:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

The original of this document is kept at:

The following individuals or institutions have signed copies:

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

DURATION:

I understand that this power of attorney exists indefinitely from the date I execute this document unless I establish a shorter time or revoke the power of attorney. If I am unable to make health care decisions for myself when this power of attorney expires, the authority I have granted my agent continues to exist until the time that I become able to make health care decisions for myself. *(If Applicable)*

This power of attorney ends on the following date: _____

PRIOR DESIGNATIONS REVOKED:

I revoke any prior medical power of attorney.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

I have been provided with a disclosure statement (the "Required Texas Introduction") explaining the effect of this document. I have read and understand the information contained in that disclosure statement.

(YOU MUST DATE AND SIGN THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY)

95. I sign my name to this medical power of attorney on this the _____ day of _____ (month), _____ (year), at _____ (city/state).
(Do not sign until in the presence of two qualifying witnesses; see below)

96. Signed: _____

Print Name: _____

STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE OF FIRST WITNESS:

I am not the person appointed as agent by this document. I am not related to the principal by blood or marriage. I would not be entitled to any portion of the principal's estate on the principal's death. I am not the attending physician of the principal or an employee of the attending physician. I have no claim against any portion of the principal's estate on the principal's death. Furthermore, if I am an employee of a health care facility in which the principal is a patient, I am not involved in providing direct patient care to the principal and am not an officer, director, partner or business office employee of the health care facility of any parent organization of the health care facility.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

SIGNATURE OF SECOND WITNESS:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____