

Advance Directive

Adults 18 years and older have the right to make decisions regarding their own health care. They may accept or refuse care based on their own desires. The best time to determine what the decision will be regarding the choice of health care is before being admitted to a health care facility. In the event a person loses the ability to make these decisions, there are two legal documents that protect their right to refuse unwanted medical treatment, or to request treatment that is wanted. These documents are called Advanced Directives.

There are two forms of Advanced Directives that are acknowledged in Nevada.

1. Declaration (Living Will) NRS 449.535-449.720

The declaration (Living Will) is in effect only when the attending physician determines the patient's condition is terminal and there is no chance for recovery. The declaration (Living Will) allows a person to state their wishes about the medical care in the event they develop a terminal condition and can no longer make their own medical decisions.

2. Durable Power of Attorney NRS 449.800-449.860

The Durable Power or Attorney for Health Care allows a person to name someone else to make the decision about their medical care, including decisions about their life support, if they can no longer speak for themselves. This appointed person may make decisions regarding health care if a condition renders to the patient to speak; it does not require the condition to be terminal.

In case a person has not prepared an Advanced Directive, the closest living relative would be asked to give consents and make decisions for the health care given.

For more information regarding Advanced Directive or to ask questions, you may contact the following resources:

Department of Human Resource
Health Division
Bureau of Licensure and Certification
4220 South Maryland Parkway, #810
Las Vegas, NV 89119 (702) 486-6515

Choice in Dying
1620 Eye Street N.W., #202
Washington, D.C. 20006
(800) 989-9455
www.lastactpartnership.org

Because the Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare Decision is a legal document, you may want to contact the following for a referral to an attorney.

State Bar of Nevada
600 East Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 382-2200

State Bar of Nevada
1325 Airmotive Way, #140
Reno, NV 89502 (775) 329-4104

*Providers of service are required to inform their patients of their right to formulate an Advanced Directive, prior rendering medical treatment that requires a consent form and to document in the Enrollee's medical record whether an Advance Directive has been executed.

I have an Advanced Directive: Yes _____ No _____

Signature: _____

Print: _____