

TENNESSEE

Advance Directive for Healthcare

The following is not a substitute for medical or legal advice. If you have any questions about how the form will help ensure your wishes are carried out, or if your wishes do not seem to fit with your wishes, talk to your health care provider or an attorney with experience in drafting advance directives.

1. Your *Tennessee Advance Directive* is an important legal document. Keep the original signed document in a secure but accessible place. Do not put the original document in a safe deposit box or any other security box that would keep others from having access to it.
2. Give photocopies of the signed original to your agent and alternate agent, doctor(s), family, close friends, clergy and anyone else who might become involved in your health care. If you enter a nursing home or hospital, have photocopies of your document placed in your medical records.
3. Be sure to talk to your agent(s), doctor(s), clergy, family and friends about your wishes concerning medical treatment. Discuss your wishes with them often, particularly if your medical condition changes.
4. You may also want to save a copy of your form in an online personal health records application, program, or service that allows you to share your medical documents with your physicians, family, and others who you want to take an active role in your advance care planning.
5. If you want to make changes to your documents after they have been signed and witnessed, you must complete a new document.
6. Remember, you can always revoke your Tennessee document.
7. Be aware that your Tennessee document will not be effective in the event of a medical emergency. Ambulance and hospital emergency department personnel are required to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unless they are given a separate directive that states otherwise. These directives called "prehospital medical care directives" or "do not resuscitate orders" are designed for people whose poor health gives them little chance of benefiting from CPR. These directives instruct ambulance and hospital emergency personnel not to attempt CPR if your heart or breathing should stop. Currently not all states have laws authorizing non-hospital do-not-resuscitate orders. We suggest you speak to your physician if you are interested in obtaining this form.

COMPLETING YOUR TENNESSEE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE

Whom should I appoint as my agent?

Your agent is the person you appoint to make decisions about your medical care if you become unable to make those decisions yourself. Your agent may be a family member or a close friend whom you trust to make serious decisions. The person you name as your agent should clearly understand your wishes and be willing to accept the responsibility of making medical decisions for you.

You can appoint a second person as your alternate agent. The alternate will step in if the first person you name as an agent is unable, unwilling, or unavailable to act for you.

How do I make my Tennessee Advance Directive legal?

You must sign your advance directive. Your signature must either be notarized or witnessed by two competent adults. Either option is available with this form.

If you have your signature witnessed, the witnesses cannot be the person you name as your agent. In addition, at least one of your witnesses must be a person 1) who is not related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption; and 2) who will not inherit any part of your estate.

Should I add personal instructions to my Tennessee Advance Directive?

One of the strongest reasons for naming an agent is to have someone who can respond flexibly as your medical situation changes and deal with situations that you did not foresee. If you add instructions to this document, it may help your agent carry out your wishes, but be careful that you do not unintentionally restrict your agent's power to act in your best interest. In any event, be sure to talk with your agent about your future medical care and describe what you consider to be an acceptable "quality of life."

What if I change my mind?

You may revoke all or part of your advance directive, except for the designation of an agent, at any time you have capacity and in any manner that communicates an intent to revoke. This could include tearing, burning, or otherwise destroying the document or simply stating orally that you intend to revoke your advance directive.

You may revoke the designation of your agent only by a signed writing or by personally informing your supervising health care provider. If your spouse is your agent, a decree of annulment, divorce, dissolution of marriage, or legal separation automatically revokes his or her power, unless you specify otherwise in your advance directive.

You can also draft a new advance directive. An advance directive that conflicts with an earlier advance directive revokes the earlier directive to the extent of the conflict.

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APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH CARE AGENT

INSERT YOUR NAME

I, _____, give my agent named below permission to make health care decisions for me if I cannot make decisions for myself. If my agent is unavailable or is unable or unwilling to serve, the alternate named below will take the agent's place.

Agent:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Relation: _____

Address:

Alternate Agent:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Relation: _____

Address:

Other Instructions or Limitations for my Agent:

ADD YOUR AGENT'S NAME, PHONE NUMBER, RELATION TO YOU, AND ADDRESS

ADD YOUR ALTERNATE AGENT'S NAME, PHONE NUMBER, RELATION TO YOU, AND ADDRESS

ADD ANY LIMITATIONS OR INSTRUCTIONS YOU HAVE FOR YOUR AGENT

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INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

INSERT YOUR NAME

I, _____, hereby give these individual instructions on how I want to be treated by my doctors and other health care providers when I can no longer make those treatment decisions myself.

QUALITY OF LIFE STATEMENT

I want my doctors to help me maintain an acceptable quality of life including adequate pain management. I do not consider the following conditions to be an acceptable quality of life:

CHECK THE BOXES FOR CONDITIONS THAT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER AN ACCEPTABLE QUALITY OF LIFE

Permanent Unconscious Condition: I become totally unaware of people or surroundings with little chance of ever waking up from the coma.

Permanent Confusion: I become unable to remember, understand, or make decisions. I do not recognize loved ones or cannot have a clear conversation with them.

Dependent in all Activities of Daily Living: I am no longer able to talk clearly or move by myself. I depend on others for feeding, bathing, dressing, and walking. Rehabilitation or any other restorative treatment will not help.

End-Stage Illnesses: I have an illness that has reached its final stages in spite of full treatment. Examples: Widespread cancer that does not respond anymore to treatment; chronic and/or damaged heart and lungs, where oxygen is needed most of the time and activities are limited due to a feeling of suffocation.

YOU CAN CHECK AS MANY OF THESE ITEMS AS YOU WANT, OR ADD ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS IN THE "OTHER INSTRUCTIONS" SECTION BELOW

If my condition is irreversible – that is, it will not improve – I direct that medically appropriate treatment be provided as indicated below. **If I mark "No" below, I authorize the withholding or withdrawal of such care:**

TREATMENT INSTRUCTIONS

CHECK THE "YES" BOXES IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE TREATMENT

Yes No **CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation):** To make the heart beat again and restore breathing after it has stopped. Usually this involves electric shock, chest compressions, and breathing assistance.

Yes No **Life Support / Other Artificial Support:** Continuous use of breathing machine, IV fluids, medications, and other equipment that helps the lungs, heart, kidneys, and other organs to continue to work.

Yes No **Treatment of New Conditions:** Use of surgery, blood transfusions, or antibiotics that will deal with a new condition but will not help the primary illness.

Yes No **Artificially Provided Nourishment and Fluids:** Use of tubes to deliver food and water to patient's stomach or use of IV fluids into a vein which would include artificially delivered nutrition and hydration.

CHECK THE "NO" BOXES IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THE TREATMENT

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SIGNATURE

Your signature must either be witnessed by two competent adults (Option A, below) or notarized (Option B, below). If witnessed, neither witness may be the person you appointed as your agent, and at least one of the witnesses must be someone who is not related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption or entitled to any part of your estate.

OPTION A: SIGN WITH WITNESSES

PRINT YOUR NAME

Principal's name (please print or type)

SIGN AND DATE
YOUR ADVANCE
DIRECTIVE

Signature of Principal (must be at least 18 or emancipated minor) Date

I am a competent adult and have not been named as the Principal's agent. I witnessed the Principal's signature on this form.

SIGNATURE OF
WITNESS 1

Signature of witness number 1 Date

I am a competent adult and have not been named as the Principal's agent. I am not related to the Principal by blood, marriage, or adoption and I am not entitled to any portion of the Principal's estate upon his or her death under any existing will or codicil or by operation of law. I witnessed the Principal's signature on this form.

SIGNATURE OF
WITNESS 2

Signature of witness number 2 Date

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OPTION B: SIGN BEFORE A NOTARY

PRINT YOUR NAME

Principal's name (please print or type)

SIGN AND DATE
YOUR ADVANCE
DIRECTIVE

Signature of Principal

Date

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF _____

I am a Notary Public in and for the State and County named above. The person who signed this instrument is personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is shown above as the "Principal." The Principal personally appeared before me and signed above or acknowledged the signature above as his or her own. I declare under penalty of perjury that the Principal appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence.

My commission expires: _____

Signature of Notary Public

HAVE YOUR
SIGNATURE
NOTARIZED