



POLICY REGARDING ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

An advance directive is a witnessed document or oral statement in which instructions are given by an individual about how that individual wants medical decisions to be made should he/she become unable to make appropriate decisions.

A living will is one form of advance directive, leaving instructions for medical treatment desired should the individual become incapacitated.

A durable power of attorney is another form of advance directive, leaving another person as the individual's representative to make choices once the individual is unable to make decisions.

A third form of an advance directive is the health care surrogate. This is an adult who is appointed to make healthcare decisions for an individual when he/she is unable to make them for himself/herself.

All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions and to complete an advance directive to ensure their wishes will be honored regarding their health care treatment.

A living will, health care surrogate, or durable power of attorney ensures a patient's treatment decisions will be granted if the patient is unable to make these decisions. This facility respects the individual's right to indicate his/her wishes in the form of an advance directive. However, unlike an acute care hospital setting, this facility does not routinely perform "high risk" procedures. Most procedures in this facility are considered to be elective and of minimal risk.

You will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your physician who can answer your questions as to the potential risks, your expected outcome, and recovery after your surgery.

Therefore, it is the policy of this facility, regardless of the contents of any advance directive or instructions from a health care surrogate or power of attorney, that if an adverse event occurs during your treatment at this facility, resuscitative or other stabilizing measures will be initiated and you will be transferred to an acute care hospital for further evaluation.

At the acute care hospital, further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures already initiated will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, advance directive, or durable power of attorney. **Your agreement with our policy at this facility does not revoke or invalidate any current advance directive.**

If for any reason you disagree with our policy regarding resuscitative measures, this facility will be glad to notify your physician that you wish to have your procedure rescheduled to another facility or hospital.

Before making a decision about advance directives, you may want to consider additional options; further information can be provided upon request. To ensure that an incapacitated individual's decisions about health care will be carried out, Florida has statutes and laws in place regarding advance directives. Florida statutes and state laws can be found online or in your local library. If you have an advance directive, living will, or durable power of attorney, please provide a copy of that document to our facility to be incorporated into your medical record.

_____ Yes, I have an advance directive, living will, or power of attorney.

_____ No, I do not have an advance directive, living will, or power of attorney

I accept the facility's policy regarding advance directives.

Patient's printed name

MR#

Date

Signature of patient

Signature Witness