

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

- An **advance health care directive**, also known as a **living will**, is a set of written instructions that patients give about actions to be taken be taken for their health if they become unable to make decisions due to illness or incapacity.
- The two (2) most common forms of **advance directive** are the Florida Designation of Healthcare Surrogate and Florida Living Will.

The **Florida Designation of Healthcare Surrogate** lets you name someone to make decisions about your medical care including decisions about life support if you can no longer speak for yourself. The designation of Healthcare Surrogate is especially useful because it appoints someone to speak for you anytime you are unable to make your own medical decisions not only at end of life.

The **Florida Living Will** lets you state your wishes about medical care in the event that you have an end-stage condition, become persistently vegetative, or develop a terminal condition and can no longer make your own medical decisions. A second doctor must agree with your attending physician's opinion of your medical condition

- If you have an advance directive, you may bring a copy to place on your chart. If you develop a complication, you will be stabilized and transferred to the hospital for further evaluation. If you are transferred, a copy of your advance directive will be sent with you to the hospital, along with a copy of your surgery center chart.
- The parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor child will at all times be included in the decision making process regarding the course of treatment for the patient.
- If you do not have an advance directive, copies of the Florida Advance Directive Forms are located at the reception desk of the surgery center, and are available upon request.

Note: These documents will be legally binding only if the person completing them is a competent adult (at least 18 years old).