

## Living Will

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A Living Will lets a person state the end-of-life medical care they want. It is also called an Advance Directive. A Living Will is useful if a person becomes unable to communicate their wishes. It has no power after death.

### How Does a Living Will Work?

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A Living Will gives info about the end-of-life care that someone wants. It is useful when a person becomes ill and cannot tell family members or doctors themselves. Without it, family members and doctors do not know what kind of care someone wants.

Many states have their own form for a Living Will. A person may state their wishes in as much detail as they want. The person should give it to their doctors and their Healthcare Power of Attorney. A person can cancel their Living Will if they want.

### Living Will & Healthcare Power of Attorney

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Living Wills and Healthcare Powers of Attorney are often made at the same time. A Healthcare Power of Attorney lets someone make healthcare choices for another person. This is only if the person is unable to make their own choices. These choices include those wishes stated in a Living Will.

# How to Create a Living Will in North Carolina

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In North Carolina, a Living Will is called an Advance Directive for a Natural Death. North Carolina has state-specific requirements. Talking to a lawyer is recommended.

The North Carolina form must be signed in front of two witnesses. It also must be notarized. You may find a notary near you through the [Secretary of State's website](#). They usually charge a small fee (less than \$10).

## North Carolina Form

The official North Carolina form can be found on [this website](#). You can directly access the PDF [here](#).

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You can give your healthcare providers more info about your desired end-of-life care. You may want to complete a Medical Order for Scope of Treatment (MOST) or a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) form as well. You can find those forms on the NC DHHS [website](#).

## Getting Started with a Living Will

Step 1. Choose which life-sustaining, life support, and end-of-life care medical treatment options you prefer.

Step 2. Fill out [this form](#).

Step 3. Find a Notary. You can find a Notary at UPS Stores, public libraries, real estate agencies and law firms, or by going to [this website](#).

Step 4. Sign the document in front of two witnesses plus the notary.

Step 5. Give a copy of your signed, notarized document to your healthcare agent if you have one, your doctor, and your local hospital.