

Living Will

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?

A Living Will gives information about the end-of-life care 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

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.

You can also give your healthcare providers more information 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 (see Resources, below).

Living Will in North Carolina



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 website (see Resources, below).

Resources

The [North Carolina Advance Directive form](https://www.sosnc.gov/forms/by_title/_advance_healthcare_directives) can be found on the [Secretary of State website](https://www.sosnc.gov)

(https://www.sosnc.gov/forms/by_title/_advance_healthcare_directives).

You can also access the form [as a PDF here](https://www.sosnc.gov/documents/forms/advance_healthcare_directives/advance_directive_for_a_natural_death.pdf)

(https://www.sosnc.gov/documents/forms/advance_healthcare_directives/advance_directive_for_a_natural_death.pdf).

You may find a notary near you in North Carolina through [the Secretary of State website](https://www.sosnc.gov/online_services/notary/find_a_notary) (https://www.sosnc.gov/online_services/notary/find_a_notary).

They usually charge a small fee (less than \$10).

Medical Order for Scope of Treatment (MOST) and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) forms may be found on the [NC DHHS website](https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/EMS/dnrmost.html)

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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 the Advance Directive form (see Resources, above).

Step 3. Find a Notary. You can find a Notary at your bank, UPS Stores, public libraries, real estate agencies, law firms, or at the Secretary of State website (see Resources, above).

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.