

A PERSONAL DECISION

*Practical information about determining
your future medical care
including living wills,
power of attorney for health care
and organ donation*

 **TEMPLE HEALTH**

Provided by
Temple Physicians

Temple Physicians

Advanced Directives

This package of information was designed to aid you in determining how you wish to direct your medical care and what your rights are. Enclosed is material that will discuss living will, power of attorney and instructions for your surrogate. You, and/or your significant other should be aware of the options that are available to you. The following forms will be able to provide you the opportunity to make decisions now that may influence your health and health care in the future. Although it is difficult to think about the situations that might occur with your health in the future, these forms provide you with choices you wish to make and allow your wishes to be acknowledged. Please take the time to read the information enclosed and fill out the appropriate forms. Don't hesitate to ask questions. You will keep the original and a copy will be kept in your medical record in our office.

Thank you.

The following will be helpful in defining the terms listed above.

1. **Living Will:**

This is also known as the Pennsylvania Declaration. This document allows you to indicate your wishes about healthcare in specific circumstances. Things like terminal illness, permanent unconsciousness (coma) or a persistent vegetative state. Pennsylvania law makes these instructions binding on your physician.

2. **Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare:**

The Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare allows you to determine who will make medical decisions for you should you become unable to do so. The person you appoint will be called a surrogate and this person will have alternates, if you wish.

3. **Instructions to My Surrogate:**

The advanced medical directive statement provides you with a way to advise your surrogate decision maker of your wishes, so that they may carry out what you want. These instructions are not legally binding on your surrogate. They may judge situations as they arise. It is important that you discuss this document with the person(s) you have chosen for surrogate(s), along with your doctor.

