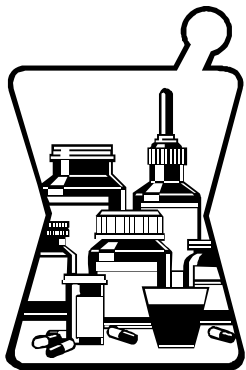


Area Organizations

Cooper University Hospital
One Cooper Plaza
Camden, NJ 08103
Ph: 1-800-826-6737
<http://www.cooperhealth.org>

South Jersey Healthcare Regional Medical Center
1505 West Sherman Avenue
Vineland, NJ 08360
Ph: 856-641-8000
<http://www.sjhs.com/frontpage/>

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Health & Agriculture Bldg
Market & Warren Streets
P.O. Box 360
Trenton, NJ 08625
<http://www.state.nj.us/health>



For more information about library resources and services contact these CLUES libraries:

Bridgeton Free Public Library 856-451-2620

Cumberland County Library 856-453-2210

Cumberland County College Library
856-691-8600 ext. 263

Millville Public Library 856-825-7087

Vineland Public Library 856-794-4244

Beth Israel Community Library 856-691-0852



Information in this brochure was provided by the Cooper University Hospital.

This brochure was produced by the staff of Millville Public Library. For questions or comments on this brochure, contact: maryjanesh@clueslibs.org

Created 5/10/2005

CLUES

*Cumberland Libraries United
Electronic System*

Information

Guide to

Advanced

Directives

and

Living

Wills

What is an Advanced Directive?

An Advanced Directive is a document that allows you to direct who will make health care choices for you and to state your wishes for treatment if you become unable to decide for yourself in the future. There are three kinds of Advanced Directives that you can use:

- A **Proxy/Surrogate Directive (Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)** lets you name a “**health care representative**”, such as a family member or friend, to make health care decisions on your behalf. **The Power of Attorney activates whenever you are in an unconscious state and health care decisions are required.**
- An **Instruction Directive (Living Will)** lets you state what kinds of medical treatment you would accept or reject in certain situations. **A Living Will is activated when it is determined that there is no reasonable hope for recovery and you are in an unconscious state.**
- A **Combined Directive** lets you do both, it lets you name a health care representative and tells that person your treatment wishes.

Who should fill out these forms?

In New Jersey, any person 18 years of age or older and able to make his/her own decisions can fill out the forms. A lawyer is helpful but is **not** necessary to fill out any of these forms.



Who should I talk to about Advanced Directives?

You should talk to your doctor, family members, close friends, or others you trust to help you. Your doctor can give you information about how to fill out your forms. A copy of your Advance Directives should be given to your doctor, family member, your health care representative, or a close friend.

What happens if I don't have an Advanced Directive?

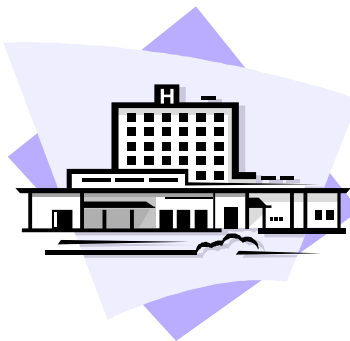
If you become unable to make treatment decisions and you do not have an Advanced Directive or Living Will, your family members will talk with your doctor and make decisions for you. If they cannot agree on your medical care or if there are no family members, it may be necessary for a court to appoint someone as your legal guardian.

What if I change my mind?

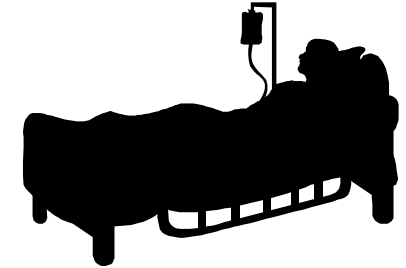
You can change or revoke any of the Advanced Directives at a later date.

What other resources are available to me?

Your doctor can help you with more information about Advanced Directives. The local hospital will provide you with more information and forms. If you prefer, you may engage a lawyer to help you with filling out Advanced Directives or Living Wills.



All of the CLUES libraries have materials to help you learn more about Living Wills. There are also several books with forms for Power of Attorney and Living Wills. Your librarian will direct you to the appropriate section.



What else should I tell my Health Care Representative?

Before having your health care agent sign any forms to speak on your behalf, you should discuss your beliefs and wishes with him or her:

- Discuss the medical treatments you would or would not want if you are incapacitated.
- Do you want to participate in organ donation?
- What will be important to you when you are dying (such as: physical comfort, family members present, etc.)?
- Where would you prefer to die?
- How do you feel about the use of life-sustaining measures in the case of a terminal disease; or permanent coma; or an irreversible chronic illness such as Alzheimer's Disease?
- What are your religious beliefs?
- Anything else that you feel is important for your health care agent to know?
- **Review your Living Will annually to be sure that it is current with your beliefs.**