

DIRECTIVE TO PHYSICIANS / LIVING WILL

The Advanced Directive is a document that allows the principal to convey decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time. It provides a way for the principal to communicate wishes to family, friends and health care professionals when he or she is later unable to do so. A typical Advanced Directive allows the agent to designate whether he or she wants to be maintained on life support under two separate scenarios: 1) “Terminal condition” – this is defined as a condition that will result in death regardless of whether or not life sustaining treatment is administered; and 2) “irreversible condition” – this is defined as a condition that is incurable, but life may be prolonged with life sustaining treatment. The principal is also given the option to allow the individual designated in his or her medical power of attorney the ability to make these decisions for him or her upon the events defined above, rather than making the decision upon executing the document.