

Advance Directive Statement Patient's Self Determination Act

(To be given to the patient)

Federal Law requires health care facilities and health maintenance organizations make patients aware of their rights regarding medical treatment and to ask if patients have an Advance Directive. To comply with this legislation and because it is the “right thing to do” this is, to make you aware of your rights under Florida law.

Federal law defines “advance directive” as being a document acceptable under state law through which a patient makes health care decisions for a future time when the patient is not capable of making his/her own decisions. In Florida, the document may be a Living Will (FS 745). Florida also has a right of privacy under the State Constitution.

Under the law, you have the right to make certain decisions concerning your medical treatment. The law allows for your rights and wishes to be respected even if you are too ill to make decisions yourself. You have the right to decide whether to accept or reject specific medical treatments or procedures, whether you are terminally ill or not. This includes decisions to continue treatment which would only prolong your life artificially and delay your dying.

You may spell out your wishes regarding life-prolonged medical procedures in either a Living Will or a Health Care Surrogate or a Durable Power of Attorney. Each document is different and would be applicable in different circumstances depending on its wording. Information on each is available for your review, upon request.

You do not have to sign any of these documents in order be treated through CHI. However, if you do sign such a document, it will help everyone

involved in your health care know your wishes. You will receive necessary health care whether or not you sign any of these documents.

A Living Will may be used to express your refusal of life-prolonging procedures in the case of an incurable illness that could lead to death. A Health Care Surrogate document is a form which you may utilize to appoint someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become mentally or physically unable to do so. The surrogate may function on your behalf for a brief period of time or longer for a life prolonging or non-life threatening illness. Any limits to the power of this surrogate in making decisions for you must be clearly stated.

You may spell out your wishes regarding life-prolonging medical procedures in either:

1. A Living Will (FS 745) used to express your refusal of life-prolonging procedures in the case of incurable illness that could lead to death.
2. A Health Care Surrogate document used to appoint someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you become mentally or physically unable to do so. Any limits to the power of this surrogate in making decisions for you must be clearly stated.
3. A Durable Power of Attorney is prepared by an attorney. Information on each is available for your review upon request.

CHI's policy and procedure regarding Advanced Directives is to abide by the law to honor your rights and privacy. **CHI does not honor Advanced Directives. However, a copy may be sent to a hospital for you when necessary.**

Be assured that we wish you well and will make every effort to provide quality health care to you. At CHI we respect life and hold it in high regard as being one of the most important values of society. We also hold your personal rights in high esteem and will make every effort to honor those rights possible as permitted by law.

If you have any further questions, please consult your primary care physician.

For further information you may also contact any of the following:

Dade County Medical Association at 305-324-8717
Florida Medical Association at 850-224-6496
Your personal attorney, physician or religious advisor.

If you have any concerns or complaints regarding noncompliance with Advance Directive requirements, we encourage you to call or write:
Consumers Assistance Unit (Agency for Health Care Administration)
2727 Mahan Drive, Fort Knox Building, Room 339, Tallahassee, Florida
32308. Telephone (888) 419-3456.

If you are receiving care in one of the CHI satellite facilities and wish to complete an Advance Directive, please ask your health care provider at the center for assistance. This information is in compliance with Florida statutes Chapter 765.