

SHARING YOUR WISHES: Advance Health Care Planning

Keeping the Language Straight

<i>A Will</i>	A legal document used to divide assets and property after death.
<i>A Living Will</i>	Written instructions that tell physicians and family members what life-sustaining treatment one does or does not want at some future time if a person becomes unable to make a decision.
<i>Power of Attorney</i>	A legal document in which one person gives another the authority to make specified financial decisions or assume certain financial responsibilities. If this authority extends after the time that the person who made the appointment is competent, it is called a “durable power of attorney.”
<i>Health Care Proxy form</i>	In this legal document a person (a principal) appoints someone else (an agent or proxy) to make his/her health care decisions in the event he/she becomes incapable of making decisions. In other states, sometimes called a <i>Power of Attorney for Healthcare</i> .
<i>Health Care Agent</i>	The person (and alternate, if identified) that an individual appoints to make his/her health care decisions in the event he/she becomes incapable of making decisions.
<i>Legal Guardian</i>	This is a person appointed by a judge to make another’s (the ward’s) personal decisions, including consenting to or refusing medical treatment.

Below are physician-signed orders:

Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Hospital DNR Order applies only in a health care facility such as a hospital, nursing home or mental hygiene facility licensed by NYS.

Non-Hospital DNR Order must be recorded on a specific NY State form. For more information, see “Planning Your Health Care in Advance: How to Make Your Wishes Known and Honored” State of New York Office of the Attorney General
Website: www.oag.state.ny.us

MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment)

A bright pink medical order form signed by a NYS licensed physician that translates patient/resident goals & preferences into medical orders. Includes orders regarding: CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation); intubation & mechanical ventilation; artificial nutrition & hydration; future hospitalization & transfer; and antibiotics. For more information see www.health.state.ny.us/professionals/patients/patient_rights/molst.