



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Upholding the Principles of the Catholic Faith in the Science and Practice of Medicine

Catholic Advanced Directives

Thank you for your interest in obtaining more information about Advanced Directives and Health Care Surrogates that are consistent with your Catholic faith.

There are several documents that you may consider for guidance, and some are listed below. The general principles consistent with the Catholic faith are that nothing should be done to intentionally end your life; likewise you should never be denied ordinary care. Also, the Sacraments are an essential part of our faith and should be requested when our health is changing.

It is also very important to designate someone to make decisions when you cannot. This is called a surrogate decision maker. That is someone who knows you very well and will speak for you when you are unable.

People and patients looking for practical resources for making advanced medical decisions may consider:

- A Catholic Declaration on Life and Death issued by the Florida Catholic Bishops:
 - <http://flaccb.org/declaration-on-life-and-death>
- The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference Advanced Directives and Health Care Proxy
 - <http://www.pacatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/livingwill.pdf>
- A Protective Medical Decision Document issued by the Patient's Rights Council:
 - www.patientsrightscouncil.org
- A Catholic Guide to End-of-Life Decisions issued by the National Catholic Bioethics Center:
 - www.ncbcenter.org
- Catholic Medical Association's video, *POLST & MOLST are you signing your life away?*
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uv7vjY7APk&feature=youtu.be>

The information provided here is not legal advice. You should consult with your family, physician, and attorney when preparing a living will.