

Planning for your future medical needs and treatment is the best way to protect not only yourself, but to also protect your loved ones. For this reason the Christian Law Association recommends that **everyone** be familiar with the two most common documents affecting your medical treatment and care:

- Living Will
- Designation of Health Care Surrogate

## LIVING WILLS

Living Wills, a type of advanced healthcare directive, have increased in popularity over the last few decades. While both Living Wills and Designations of Health Care Surrogate contain instructions for medical treatment in the event an individual is unable to make the decisions himself, the potential impact these documents can have on your life and medical care are vastly different.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

While the Christian Law Association advises that everyone should have both a Last Will and Testament and Designation of Health Care Surrogate, we discourage the use of Living Wills that encourage patients to forego end-of-life treatment.

For more information on preparing your Last Will and Testament, please contact the Christian Law Association.

*The Christian Law Association does not recommend Living Wills for a number of reasons:*

## LIVING WILLS FOCUS ON DEATH

If you are unable to speak for yourself, a Living Will allows medical personnel to withdraw life-sustaining care. Since it is difficult for you to anticipate advances in medical technology, changes in the law, or even exactly why you might be hospitalized, it is difficult for a Living Will to accurately reflect your wishes under the exact circumstances that might exist at the time you are being treated.

## LIVING WILLS DO NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE WILL OF GOD

Because Living Wills place life-and-death decisions in the hands of medical professionals, the will of God is frequently not considered when the decision to withdraw life sustaining treatment is made. CLA recommends that Christians consider handling end-of-life care through a Designation of Health Care Surrogate.

# DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE SURROGATE

"In the multitude of counsellors  
there is safety." Proverbs 11:14

Today's world is an ever-changing place. Medical technology is constantly advancing, and the law is constantly changing. People find themselves in unforeseen circumstances when they are ill or hospitalized or reaching the end of life. For these reasons it is important to consider obtaining a Designation of Health Care Surrogate.

A Designation of Health Care Surrogate is the written embodiment of the concept of safety in the multitude of counselors.

This document will allow you to designate several close family members or friends to make decisions about your medical care in the event that you cannot make these decisions for yourself. This committee of friends and family you know and trust the most will be able to make important decisions regarding your healthcare, especially when those decisions could result in ending your life.

*A Designation of Health Care Surrogate also takes some of the burden off your spouse, who may be called on to make difficult decisions under difficult circumstances.*

A Designation of Health Care Surrogate presumes that life should always be preserved by requiring a unanimous decision of the surrogate to have life sustaining treatment concluded. Your surrogate can prayerfully consider God's will for your life, along with the advice of your physicians to make the best decision in your place.

**A sample Designation of Health Care Surrogate can be obtained from the Christian Law Association.**

The Christian Law Association stands ready to assist you and your loved ones as you prepare for your future. Please contact us for more information.



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# LIVING WILL *vs.* DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE SURROGATE

WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION