

## **Creating a Directive to Physicians, or “Living Will”**

In addition to talking to your doctors, family, and friends, you should put your wishes in writing. One of the documents you can use is the Living Will, also known as a Directive to Physicians or Health Care Directive.

The Living Will is a directive to doctors and families stating a person’s decision to refuse life-sustaining medical treatment if the person has a terminal illness or illness/injury that leaves him or her permanently unconscious. This directive lets your doctor withhold or stop life-sustaining treatment. You will still get comfort care.

The right to create a Living Will is established in Washington state’s Natural Death Act.

In order for this form to be legal, you must have either a Notary or two witnesses watch you sign this form and then sign it themselves. ***This form is not valid and will not be accepted if it is not signed by you and your Notary / two witnesses.***

**If you decide to use two witnesses instead of a Notary, your witnesses must:**

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Know you.
- Watch you sign the form.

**Your witnesses cannot:**

- Be related to you by blood or marriage.
- Be your health care agent, doctor, nurse, or social worker.
- Benefit financially or receive any money after you die.
- Work at the place in which you live (such as staff at an assisted living facility).