

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

The presence of an Advance Directive in a medical record indicates the patient's preference for continued medical care and should be noted. In order to determine if a patient has a Living Will or an Advance Directive, the patient is questioned during the admission process. The Emerald Coast Surgery Center will not honor do not resuscitate orders of an advance directive. The parent(s) or guardian(s) of a minor child will at all times be included in the decision making process regarding the course of treatment for the patient. In the event of a patient transfer of medical records from this facility to another, the Advance Directive should be part of the record sent.

The two (2) most common forms of **advance directive** are the Florida Designation of Healthcare Surrogate and Florida Living Will.

The **Florida Designation of Healthcare Surrogate** lets you name someone to make decisions about your medical care including decisions about life support if you can no longer speak for yourself. The designation of Healthcare Surrogate is especially useful because it appoints someone to speak for you anytime you are unable to make your own medical decisions not only at end of life.

The **Florida Living Will** lets you state your wishes about medical care in the event that you have an end-stage condition, become persistently vegetative, or develop a terminal condition and can no longer make your own medical decisions. A second doctor must agree with your attending physician's opinion of your medical condition.

Note: These documents will be legally binding only if the person completing them is a competent adult (at least 18 years old).

Copies of the Florida Advance Directive forms will be made available upon request from the surgery center.