

probate court order.

Generally, the decision of a health care representative will be followed if the conservator and health care representative disagree unless the probate court orders otherwise. This rule may not apply when the conservator has been appointed in some particular situations.

Durable Power of Attorney is the designation of an individual to act on your behalf in all affairs specified with the **exception of health care decisions** when incapacitated. A Notary is required when executing a Durable Power of Attorney.

Make Your Wishes Known

If you have an Advance Directive, tell your family and make sure they know where it's located. Also, tell your doctor and make sure that the Advance Directive is part of your medical records. If you have a Health Care Representative, give a copy to the person you've chosen to act on your behalf.

In general, Advance Directives will not be honored on the ambulatory services of YUHS. An exception will be made for a patient wearing a State-sanctioned orange bracelet, signifying the existence of a current “do not resuscitate” order as required by Connecticut state regulations.

Remember to . . .

- Discuss your Advance Directives with people close to you.
- Check the Connecticut State Law at www.ct.gov.
- Sign and date your wishes.

· Keep a card in your wallet stating that you have Advance Directives and where to find them.

· Leave a copy with a family member or friend, your durable power of attorney, your Health Care Representative and your physician.

· You can change your mind at any time about Advance Directives.

· You can cancel them in writing or orally.

· Remember to tell your physician and others who have copies of Advance Directives about your decision to make a change.

This brochure offers explanations of your rights, ways to make your wishes known and steps you can take to ensure that those wishes will be carried out if you become seriously ill and cannot later express your desires.

The staff at Yale University Health Services is here to assist you. If you have any questions after reading this material, please call the YUHS Patient Representative at 203-432-0109, the Care Coordination Department at 203-432-1996, or visit us on the web at www.yale.edu/yhp.

If you have additional questions about Advance Directives, discuss them with your physician and family. A social worker, patient representative or chaplain may be able to assist you, but they cannot provide legal advice. If you have legal questions, you should speak to a lawyer.



Yale University Health Services

Advance Directives

Your rights

Your wishes

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES . . . MAKING YOUR WISHES KNOWN

What would happen if you experienced a serious medical problem and could not speak for yourself to make your wishes known about your medical care, life support and similar measures? Who would you want to make medical decisions on your behalf? Would that person be considered your decision-maker according to Connecticut law?

You have the right to make your own decisions . . . to accept or refuse medical care. And you can make those decisions today for tomorrow with Advance Directives.

In Connecticut, an Advance Directive can include:

- Your Living Will
- Your designation of a Health Care Representative
- Directives to a conservator

An Advance Directive guides your doctors and health care team to know what your wishes are. Advance Directives are legal documents that you may complete to ensure that your wishes are carried out when you are unable to speak for yourself.

Such a document can save your family a lot of anguish because they wouldn't need to second-guess your wishes. And keep in mind that you can change your Advance Directive at any time.

Living Will

A **Living Will** provides written instructions describing whether you want procedures or treatments that might keep you alive if you have a ter-

minal illness or are permanently unconscious. The Living Will document lets your physician(s) and others know your choices regarding the use of life prolonging procedures if you are unable to make decisions for yourself. Your physician and your Health Care Representative are to follow the directives of your Living Will. A Living Will goes into effect only when you are unable to make or communicate your decisions about your medical care.

Health Care Representative

A **Health Care Representative** is a person whom you authorize in writing to make any and all health care decisions on your behalf. A health care representative does not act unless you are unable to make or communicate your decisions about your medical care. The health care representative will make decisions on your behalf based on your wishes, as stated in a living will or as otherwise known to your health care representative. In the event your wishes are not clear or a situation arises that you did not anticipate, your health care representative will make a decision in your best interest, based upon what is known of your wishes.

A health care representative can make any and all health care decisions for you, including the decision to accept or refuse any treatment, service or procedure used to diagnose or treat any physical or mental condition. The health care representative can also make the decision to provide, withhold or withdraw life support systems. The health care representative cannot make decisions

for certain specific treatments which by law have special requirements.

Conservator of the Person and Durable Power of Attorney

A **Conservator of the Person** is someone appointed by the Probate Court when the court finds that a person is incapable of caring for him/herself including the inability to make decisions about his/her medical care. A person who is conserved by a court is known as a "ward".

The conservator of the person is responsible for making sure that the health and safety needs are taken care of and generally also has the power to give consent for the ward's medical care, treatment and services.

You can name in advance the person you want the court to appoint as your conservator if you become incapable of making your own decisions. If you have a conservator, he/she will be consulted in all medical care decisions. If you have a living will, however, the conservator's consent is not required to carry out your wishes as expressed in the living will.

If a conservator is later appointed for you, he/she must follow your health care instructions, either as expressed in a living will, or as otherwise made known to your conservator while you were able to make and communicate health care decisions. Further, a conservator cannot revoke your Advance Directives with a