



What is an Advance Directive?

A legal document(s) which states your choices about medical treatment or names someone to make decisions about your medical treatment if you are unable to make these decisions or choices yourself.

Patients have the right to decide about their own medical care. They keep this right even if they cannot communicate their decisions.

Tell me more. . .



Advance Directives take effect only when the patient is no longer able to communicate healthcare decisions.

Advance Directives are not followed in emergencies.

Patients can complete the Advance Directives without a lawyer.



Do I need an Advance Directive?

All patients over the age of 18 should have some form of Advance Directive. It protects the patient's right to make his or her own healthcare decisions. It also helps remove the burden of decision from family members.

The 5 components of the Five Wishes Advance Directive

- **WISH 1 ~ Appointment of Health Care Proxy:** Also called medical POA (Power of Authority). A medical POA is a legal document. It grants power to make healthcare decisions. Medical POA may take effect whenever a patient is unable to make medical decisions due to illness or injury. The health care proxy should know and care about the patient. The proxy also should be willing and able to advocate for the patient.
- **WISH 2 ~ LIVING WILL:** It describes what types of care the patient wants at the end of life. Laws on Living Wills vary from state to state. Make sure you know the laws of your state. A Living Will should address: life support, tube feeding, DNR/DNI orders, withholding treatment, palliative care and organ donation.
- **WISH 3 ~ COMFORT ISSUES:** This section lets your healthcare provider know your wishes about pain relief or medications for other issues. It also addresses other physical comfort issues.
- **WISH 4 ~ HOW I WANT TO BE TREATED:** even though I may not feel well enough to tell my healthcare providers I want to be treated this way please do this for me.
- **WISH 5 ~ EMOTIONAL AND FAMILIAL ISSUES:** even though I may not be able to express myself I want my family to know this... It also deals with memorial services.

The Five Wishes Advance Directive used at the Clinton Indian Health Center is more comprehensive and user-friendly. The Advance Directive Counselor will be happy to assist you with completing the form, making copies, and laminating your wallet form. If ever needed, we can fax a copy to your medical provider.