

The WASHINGTON STATE

LIVING WILL

R E G I S T R Y

WHAT IS A LIVING WILL?

A living will is a legal document that provides vital information when an individual is unable to communicate or make decisions about end-of-life treatment.

WHAT IS THE WASHINGTON STATE LIVING WILL REGISTRY?

The Washington State Living Will Registry is a secure, online database that preserves Washington State citizens' end-of-life preferences and gives peace of mind to family members. The registry is free and only accessible to authorized health care personnel. The Washington State Living Will Registry contains:

1. **Health care directive** (recommended for all) – a written document that informs others of your health care wishes.
2. **Durable power of attorney for health care** (recommended for all) – a legal document that allows an individual to appoint another person to make all decisions regarding health care.
3. **Physician orders for life sustaining treatment** – a set of instructions for your health care providers that specifies your wishes for end-of-life treatment and preferences.
4. **Mental health advance directive** – a written document that describes your treatment and care if you become incapacitated by mental illness and your judgment is impaired and/or you are unable to communicate effectively.

Individuals can select which documents they want to include in the registry. The Washington State Department of Health recommends completing the health care directive and the durable power of attorney for health care forms.

WHO NEEDS A LIVING WILL?

Everyone, from teenagers to the elderly, needs a living will to guide and protect their final wishes. A living will helps individuals avoid confusion and create a complete record of their wishes to reassure family members about their end-of-life treatment and preferences.

WHO CAN ACCESS LIVING WILLS?

Only authorized health care personnel can access your living will. Once forms are complete and mailed or faxed to the Washington State Living Will Registry, individuals can review and update their living will at any time and the registry will automatically remind them annually to update their living will if needed.

WHAT DO PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW?

The registry will help you provide complete patient care by knowing your patients' treatment preferences. Living will individual's can be identified by:

- A sticker on their driver's license/identification card/health insurance card,
- A wallet card with the individual's unique registration number,
- Accessing documents on file in the registry using their name and birth date.

Most health care providers are authorized to access the registry. If you as a provider do not have access, you can fill out a facility access application online. Upon receiving approval from the Washington State Department of Health, you will be mailed an access code and password.

WHAT DO WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW?

Registering is free. Visit www.doh.wa.gov/livingwill to learn more and register your living will. Once registration is complete, you will receive stickers for your driver's license, identification cards and health insurance cards as well as a wallet card that makes it easy for health care providers to identify that you have a Washington State living will.

WHY SHOULD YOU REGISTER A LIVING WILL?

- If you are in a situation where you are unable to make health decisions for yourself, your living will can communicate your end-of-life preferences.
- Your living will enables health care providers to talk with your family members about your wishes with confidence and concrete information.
- Family members can be assured that your end-of-life preferences are met in an accurate way.

HOW DOES THE WASHINGTON STATE LIVING WILL REGISTRY WORK?

<p>Register your living will by filling out one to four simple forms online.</p> <p>STEP 1</p>	<p>Mail or fax your forms to the Washington State Living Will Registry.</p> <p>STEP 2</p>	<p>The registry electronically stores your information in the database and assigns you a unique registration number.</p> <p>STEP 3</p>	<p>You will receive stickers for your identification cards and a wallet card with your unique registration number.</p> <p>STEP 4</p>	<p>Keep your living will up to date. Contact the registry if you want to update your living will or make changes when you receive your annual reminder letter.</p> <p>STEP 5</p>
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