

# Wyoming Advance Health Care Directive Form

## Guidance and Glossary

You have the right to give instructions about your own health care. You also have the right to name someone else to make health-care decisions for you. This form lets you do either or both of these things. It also lets you express your wishes regarding donation of organs.

Unless you state otherwise, your agent may make all health-care decisions for you. This form has a place for you to limit the authority of your agent. Unless you limit the authority of your agent, your agent will have the right to:

- a) Consent or refuse consent to any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose or otherwise affect a physical or mental condition;
- b) Select or dismiss health-care providers and institutions;
- c) Approve or deny diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, medication and orders not to resuscitate; and
- d) Direct the provision, withholding or withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration and all other forms of health care.

If you use this form, you may choose whether to complete all or any part of it or you may modify any part of it. You also are free to use a different form.

Once you have completed the form:

Give a copy of the signed and completed form to your primary physician, to any other health-care providers you may have, to any health-care institution at which you are receiving care, and to any health-care agents you have named.

Post a copy of the form on the front of your refrigerator or another location where an emergency responder will easily see it.

You should talk to the person you have named as agent to make sure that he or she fully understands your wishes and is willing to take the necessary responsibility.

You have the right to revoke this advance health care directive or replace this form at any time.

## **Glossary of Advance Health Care Directive Terms**

**Advance Health Care Directive:** A general term describing two kinds of legal documents, an individual's instruction and a power of attorney for health care. These documents allow a person to give instructions about future medical care in case they are unable to participate in medical decisions due to serious illness or incapacity.

**Agent** is a person designated in a power of attorney for health care to make health-care decisions for the person granting the power.

**Artificial nutrition and hydration:** Supplying food and water through a conduit, such as a tube or an intravenous line where the recipient is not required to chew or swallow voluntarily, including, but not limited to, nasogastric tubes, gastrostomies, jejunostomies and intravenous infusions. Artificial nutrition and hydration does not include assisted feeding, such as spoon or bottle feeding.

**Capacity:** An individual's ability to understand the significant benefits, risks and alternatives to proposed health care and to make and communicate a health-care decision.

**Health care:** Any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose or otherwise affect an individual's physical or mental condition.

**Health care decisions:** A decision made by an individual or the individual's agent, guardian, or surrogate, regarding the individual's health care, which may include: a) Selection and discharge of health care providers and institutions; b) Approval or denial of diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, programs of medication and orders not to resuscitate; and c) Directions to provide, withhold or withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration and all other forms of health care.

**Health care institution:** An institution, facility or agency licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted by law to provide health care in the ordinary course of business.

**Hospice:** An institution or service that provides palliative care when medical treatment is no longer expected to cure the disease or prolong life.

**Individual Instruction:** An individual's wishes concerning a health-care decision for the individual.

## **Glossary of Advance Health Care Directive Terms - Continued**

**Notary Public:** A person who administers oaths, certifies documents, takes affidavits, and attests to the authenticity of signatures.

**Physician:** An individual authorized to practice medicine under the Wyoming Medical Practice Act.

**Principal:** The person who gives authority to an agent to make health-care decisions in the event that he or she becomes incapacitated. Also, the person for whom the advance health care directive has been created.

**Power of Attorney for Health Care:** The designation of an agent to make health-care decisions for the individual granting the power. This type of advance directive might also be called a health care proxy, or durable power of attorney for health care.

**Health care provider:** Any person licensed under the Wyoming statutes practicing within the scope of that license as a licensed physician, licensed physician's assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse.

**Primary physician:** A physician designated by an individual or the individual's agent, guardian or surrogate to have primary responsibility for the individual's health care or, in the absence of a designation, or if the designated physician is not reasonably available, a physician who undertakes the responsibility.