

What Should I Do With My Living Will and Health Care Power Of Attorney?

Once you have signed these documents, there are a few steps to take to be sure your wishes are carried out by your doctors, family, and loved ones.

- **Send a copy to your doctor.** Be sure to include a cover letter with your address, social security number, date of birth, social security number, and phone number.
- **Discuss the Living Will with your doctor(s).** It is important to communicate to your doctor directly that you wish the contents of your Living Will to be followed, so be sure to do so at your next opportunity.
- **Send a copy to the department of records at the hospital that you use and/or the hospital that you would go to if you need care.** Be sure to include a cover letter with your address, social security number, date of birth, social security number, and phone number.
- **Give a copy to your health care agent if you have one.** This is the person you named in your Health Care Power of Attorney if you have executed that document.
- **Give copies to your family and loved ones.** You might also want to give a copy to your minister.
- **Keep the original document in a safe and easily accessible place at all times.** You should make an extra copy for yourself as well, in case you lose your original or it is accidentally destroyed or damaged.
- **Bring a copy of your Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney with you if you are admitted to a hospital.**