

Planning for end of life takes time and energy to complete. While you have the time, lay out your plans, wishes, directions, and desires, so your passing will be peaceful, for both you and your loved ones.

End-of-Life Paperwork

ADVANCE DIRECTIVE (POWER OF ATTORNEY): SURROGATE DECISION MAKERS

Healthcare Advance Directive gives someone the power to make healthcare decisions for you when you are unable. The hospice team can help you complete this.

Financial Advance Directive gives someone the power to make financial decisions when you are unable. Talk with a lawyer regarding a financial advance directive.

DNR (DO NOT RESUSCITATE)

Talk to your hospice nurse about this form. The DNR is a medical order signed by a physician instructing healthcare workers not to perform CPR on you, but instead to allow you to die naturally and in comfort.

Finances, Properties & Assets

Contact your various account providers and attorney(s) to find out what you need to do to prepare prior to death and what your loved ones will need to do after your death. Here are a few items to get you thinking:

Do you need to update or complete a will?

Without a will, the estate will go into probate – a legal process where courts decide who has the right to the remaining assets, usually a long process.

Are there any properties or assets you want to sell before death?

Do you need a trust or an estate plan?

If you own a business, do you have a business survival plan? Do you have “key man” insurance? Do you need to sell or transfer business interests?

Who will pay your bills during the immediate time after your death?

Do you have policies and papers in a safe place that is accessible to the correct people?

- > Advance directive
- > Will
- > Birth certificate
- > Social Security card
- > Marriage license
- > Deed to burial property
- > Copy of funeral arrangements
- > Life insurance policies
- > Real estate deeds and leases
- > Account documents (IRAs, 401Ks, pension, etc.)
- > Vehicle title
- > Recurring bills
- > Tax returns
- > Keys/code to safe deposit box



Living Arrangements & Care

If you would like to stay at home, is there anyone who can provide caregiving? Or will you be hiring caregivers when the time comes?

If you would like to live in a senior living community, do you know where? Have you set up a tour? Check if you have any Veteran benefits or long-term care insurance to help pay for care.

If you have dependents, have you set up a guardian?

If you have pets, have you made arrangements for their care after your death?

Funeral Arrangements

Have you selected a funeral home?

Do you want to be embalmed and buried? Do you have a burial plot? Have you picked out a headstone?

Do you want to be cremated? Where should your ashes be scattered? Do you want a headstone?

Do you want to donate your body to science?

Do you want to write your own obituary? Talk to your funeral home for additional assistance.

Do you want a funeral service? Wake? Memorial service? Program? Who will do the eulogy?

Have you pre-paid for funeral expenses?

Have you created a contact list for funeral or memorial notices?

Communication & Relationships

Do your loved ones understand your condition?

Do they know who you selected for your surrogate decision makers?

What conversations do you want to have before your death?

Five essential things that can be helpful to say at end of life:

I'm sorry. I forgive you. Thank you. I love you. Goodbye.

What would you like to accomplish with your remaining time?

Any bucket list items?

Write out your life story. Think about what life lessons, advice, hopes and dreams that you would like to pass on to loved ones. Write letters, record audio or video.

Any mementos/keepsakes you'd like to create?

(i.e. fingerprint necklace for a loved one)

