

Advanced Directives/Living Will:

New Jersey law requires that we document in your medical record whether or not you have an advance directive and/or living will.

On January 11, 1992, a New Jersey law took effect which mandates that all health care facilities/offices ask patients whether they have an advance directive or living will. At Advanced we have made this part of the registration/patient information form. If you have an advance directive or living will, please bring it with you to your appointment. If you **do not have** an advance directive or living will, please read the following information. An advance directive or living will is a document which allows you to give written instruction of those caring for you indicating the type of health care you wish to receive or reject in the event you become unable to express these decisions for yourself. There are three types of advance directives:

1. A Proxy Directive – In a proxy directive, a competent adult names a trusted relative or friend to make health care decisions on his or her behalf when he or she is unable to make these decisions.
2. An Instructive Directive – In an instructive directive, a competent adult provides specific written instructions concerning the type of medical treatment he or she would want performed, or would not want performed, and under what circumstances.
3. A Combined Directive – In this document, a competent adult states his or her general wishes regarding the kind of health care he or she wished to receive but appoints a trusted relative or friend to carry them out.

A brochure containing living will forms and instructions is available from the NJ Bioethics Commission. If you wish to receive the brochure, please send a 9 inch by 12 inch self-stamped envelope with \$1 postage to:

The NJ Bioethics Commission
CN 061
Trenton, NJ 08625