

The following organizations provide  
information and forms for Durable Power of  
Attorney and Advance Directives:

CENTER FOR PRACTICAL BIOETHICS  
Harzfeld Building • 1111 Main Street, Suite 500  
Kansas City, MO 64105  
1-800-344-3829  
[www.practicalbioethics.org](http://www.practicalbioethics.org)

MISSOURI OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
P.O. Box 899 • 207 West High Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
Life Choices publication  
[www.ago.mo.gov/publications/lifechoices.htm](http://www.ago.mo.gov/publications/lifechoices.htm)

THE MISSOURI BAR  
P.O. Box 119  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
[www.mobar.org](http://www.mobar.org)

Information for this booklet was compiled by  
Liberty Hospital's Risk Management Department.



# Who speaks for you if you are unable to speak for yourself?

Put your health care decisions in writing:  
Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care  
Health Care Advance Directives



## Advance Directives

Advance Directives are legal documents that allow you to plan and make your own end-of-life wishes known in the event you are unable to communicate.

- It will guide your family and healthcare team through the medical treatment you wish to receive if you are unable to communicate your wishes.
- It goes into effect when you no longer are able to make your own decisions. It provides your loved ones with a clear direction if they are faced with choices about your medical care.

## Durable Power of Attorney

A Durable Power of Attorney is a person you trust to make decisions about your medical care if you temporarily or permanently are unable to communicate and make decisions for yourself. This includes not only decisions at the end of your life, but also in other medical situations.

- Make sure the person you select understands your wishes and feels comfortable speaking for you.
- This document also is known as a “Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare.” This document goes into effect when your physician declares you are unable to make your own medical decisions.
- The person you select also can be known as a healthcare agent, surrogate, attorney-in-fact, or healthcare proxy. You also can select a second person as an alternate in case your first healthcare agent is unwilling or unable to serve.

## Is there a fee?

No, there is no fee associated with completing this form, unless you decide to go through an attorney. Liberty Hospital has Notary Publics available to notarize your Advance Directive/Durable Power of Attorney form free of charge.

## Why is an Advance Directive/Durable Power of Attorney important?

It provides your loved ones with a clear direction if they are faced with choices about your medical care. Without an Advance Directive, your physician will make treatment decisions. Family — including spouses and children — cannot consent to allow or deny treatment without designation by a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

## How do I complete an Advance Directive/Durable Power of Attorney?

If you would like assistance in completing your Advance Directive/Durable Power of Attorney, contact your nurse or social worker who will arrange for someone to meet with you.

Forms are available at [www.libertyhospital.org](http://www.libertyhospital.org). Click on Patients, then Advance Directive Forms. In Missouri the signature section for Durable Power of Attorney requires you to sign the document in front of a Notary Public. Liberty Hospital and its clinics offer notaries on site. Advance Directives only require two witnesses, but if you are completing both sides of the form, your signature signed in front of a notary will be enough. Once you have completed your Advance Directive/ Durable Power of Attorney, share your form with your family, agent and medical providers.