

What to do once your **WILL TO LIVE** is completed...

- Make sure your agent and back-up agents receive copies
- Put it in an easy-to-find place
- Let family members know that you have a completed **WILL TO LIVE** and where you keep copies
- If possible, keep a copy on yourself
- See if your state has a registry and register your **WILL TO LIVE** :

www.nrlc.org/MedEthics/StateRegistry.html

- Fill out a pocket card and keep it in your wallet near your insurance card

- Download cards at:

www.alliancedefensefund.org/willtoolive/docs/WTL_card.pdf

To find the
**WILL TO LIVE
DURABLE POWER OF
ATTORNEY**
for your state, go to:

www.nrlc.org/euthanasia/willtolive/StatesList.htm



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**THE ROBERT POWELL
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**The WILL TO LIVE
DURABLE POWER OF
ATTORNEY**

- Names someone you trust to safeguard your life when you cannot speak for yourself
- Names backup agents if your first choice can't serve
- Describes what treatment you do and do not want
- Protects your family and health care agents from pressure from healthcare providers by allowing them to prove what you really did want
- Relieves the agony of decision-making for them by making your wishes clear

The “Living Will” or the WILL TO LIVE?

Many people do not want a lot of medical technology, unnecessary *medical treatment*, or *extraordinary treatment* prolonging the last few hours or days of their lives. The so-called “Living Will” allows for this but is it the best option?

The average person considers a *terminally ill* patient as one who will inevitably die.

The definition of “terminal” as defined by Webster's is “of or in the final stages of a fatal disease.”

According to current legal practice, however, the “Living Will” considers you to be in a “terminal” condition if you would end up with a permanent disability of some kind—even if your life could be saved by medical treatment.

Consider: A limp that can't be corrected is irreversible.

Permanent memory loss is irreversible.

But are these truly “terminal” conditions as “in the final stages of a fatal disease”?

Under the “Living Will,” however, conditions such as these would be considered irreversible and you would legally be defined as being “terminal”—a **basis for withholding treatment.**

■ **The laws of most states consider providing you with food and water to be “medical treatment.”**

■ **Under the terms of a “Living Will,” medical treatment—even in the form of food and water—can be withheld if you are considered terminally ill or in an irreversible condition. Plainly, you would qualify to be starved to death.**

Why the WILL TO LIVE *Durable Power of Attorney?*

- It is precise
- It is specific
- There will be no confusion about your wishes
- And remember, you can not be starved to death

Some other documents of this nature, while written with good intentions, are unfortunately insufficiently protective. From a legal perspective, many of these other documents are worded in such vague terms that the document becomes unenforceable.