

What to do once your WILL TO LIVE is completed

- Make sure your representative and back-up representatives 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.
- To register your WILL TO LIVE, obtain a Sign-up Form online at WV e-Directive Registry or by calling 877-209-8086.

- The laws of West Virginia provide that food and water are considered “medical treatment.”
- Under the terms of a so-called “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.



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The
WILL TO LIVE
*Medical Power
of Attorney*



WOULD YOU QUALIFY TO BE STARVED TO DEATH?

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: as 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 have an “irreversible” condition. You could have a permanent disability of some kind and could be considered “terminal”—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,” conditions such as these would be considered “irreversible” and you would legally be defined as being “terminal”—a basis for withholding medical treatment.

West Virginia law provides that giving you artificially-administered food and water is considered “medical treatment,” so it can then be withheld.

Plainly, if you signed a “Living Will” in West Virginia, you would qualify to be starved to death.

What does the WILL TO LIVE *Medical Power of Attorney* do?

- Provides a general presumption in favor of medical care and the right to food and fluids
- States you can not be starved to death
- Names someone you trust to safeguard your life when you cannot speak for yourself
- Names backup representatives if your first choice can’t serve
- Describes what treatment you do and do not want
- Limits confusion about your wishes
- Helps your family and health care representatives resist pressure from healthcare providers who wish to withhold treatment

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.



To find the
West Virginia WILL TO LIVE
Medical Power of Attorney
go to:
www.wvforlife.org/life-issues
or call 304.594.9845
or email info@wvforlife.org