



Information and Policy on Advanced Directives

What is an Advanced Directive?

It is a written document in which you can clearly specify how medical decisions affecting you are to be made if you are unable to make them, or to authorize a specific person to make such decisions for you. There are many types of advance directives, but the two most common forms are:

- ***Living Wills***

These generally state the type of medical care an individual wants or does not want if he/she becomes unable to make his/her own decisions.

- ***Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care***

This is a signed, dated and witnessed paper naming another person as an individual's agent or proxy to make medical decisions for that individual if he/she should become unable to make his/her own decisions.

What does the law say about Advanced Directives?

By law, the Texas Health and Safety Code, Section 166.001. The Advanced Directive Act allows all competent adults the right to create an advanced directive. The goal is to empower all health care consumers to make their own judgments regarding medical decision-making. There are multiple kinds of Advanced Directives, depending on your needs and situation. You can go online and download the Texas forms that can be completed in English or Spanish, if you wish. Not every medical facility has to follow your Advanced Directive, but they must inform you prior to signing the consent of their position regarding Advanced Directives.

Saratoga Surgical Center's Policy on Advanced Directives

All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decision and to make Advance Directives or to execute Powers of Attorney that authorize others to make decisions on their behalf based on the patient's expressed wishes when the patient is unable to make decisions or unable to communicate decisions. This Surgery Center respects and upholds those rights.

However, unlike in an Acute Care Hospital setting, the Surgery Center does not routinely perform "high risk" procedures. Most procedures performed in this facility are considered to be of minimal risk. Of course, no surgery is without risk. You will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your physician who can answer your questions as to its risks, your expected recovery and care after your surgery.



At Saratoga Surgical Center, if a patient should suffer a cardiac or respiratory arrest or other life-threatening situation, the signed consent implies consent for resuscitation and transfer to a higher level of care. Therefore, in accordance with federal and state law, the facility is notifying you it will not honor previously signed advance directives for any patient. However, if a hospital transfer occurs, any directive presented the day of surgery will accompany the patient.

Websites to access for additional Information:

The Advance Directives Act can be found at:
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/HS/him/HS.166.htm>

Yes, I have an Advanced Directive
(PLEASE BRING THIS WITH YOU THE DAY OF SURGERY)
 No, I do not have an Advanced Directive

Yes, I would like information on an Advanced Directive
 No, I would not like information on an Advanced Directive

By signing the Advance Directives release you are acknowledging that you have read and understand.

Patient's Signature: _____ -
Date: _____

If patient is unable to sign or is a minor, please sign below:

Legal Guardian's Signature: _____
Date _____

Relationship to Patient _____

Witness to Patient/Relative/Guardian's Signature: _____
Date: _____