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## ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

Advance directives are [documents](#) that state your choices for health care, or name someone to make those decisions, if you are unable to make your wishes known in the future because of illness or injury.

By putting your wishes in writing, you take the burden off your family and doctors for making those most difficult decisions.

Nearly a decade ago, the Texas Legislature passed the **Texas Advance Directives Act**, which clarifies the rights of adult patients to make important legal decisions about their health care in advance.

Texas law provides for four types of advance directives. You can create one or more, to meet your particular needs and wishes. Key things to know:

- Advance directives do not need to be notarized, only witnessed, signed and dated.
- Two witnesses are required. Only one of them may be a family member or caregiver.
- The lack of advance directives will not impact your access to care.
- Having an advance directive will not affect insurance policies or premiums.
- Advance directives executed in another state are valid in Texas.
- If one advance directive conflicts with another, the later document supersedes.
- Advance directives executed before Sept. 1, 1999, are still valid, but are governed by the law in effect when executed.
- You can revoke an advance directive at any time.
- The national Five Wishes program does not meet all of Texas' legal requirements; it is best to document your desires using [Texas forms](#).

*South Austin Surgery Center does **NOT** honor advance directives. If you have Advanced Directives and provide the center with a copy, it will be placed in your medical record for transfer in the event of an emergency. The Center's staff will communicate to the receiving acute care facility healthcare providers that you do have an advance directive. A copy (if provided to SAS) will also be given to the acute care facility.*

*If you would like Advance Directive forms the Center will provide the official State Advance Directive forms to you.*