

*"Where there's
a will ...
there's a way."*

***Let your voice
be heard.***

Preparing your
Living Will can
help your family
through a
difficult time.

Living Will



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An informational guide prepared
by the Clinical Ethics Committee

Why?

The purpose of having a living will is to make your wishes known regarding health care decisions at a time when you are critically ill and lose your decision-making capacity.

It may also help facilitate a dialogue between you, your physician, and your family about specific types of care and life sustaining treatments you would wish to receive.

Completing and updating your living will could reduce the burden on family and caregivers. This will enable them to respect your end-of-life decisions, given your specific values.

How?

Speak to your family, then discuss this with a physician whom you know and trust. This discussion is an important part of the living will process.

The person you are choosing to make decisions on your behalf (your mandatary) may gain a clearer understanding about your choices as well as your feelings.

Only the Mandatary section is legally binding in Quebec. It does not require a lawyer or notary to be completed.

Questions?

The active participation of your physician will allow you to ask questions and be well informed about the decisions you are making. It is strongly recommended that you ask as many questions as you wish, in order to eliminate any possibility of confusion and/or uncertainty.

The document itself will also include an explanation of the terms used. This may encourage you to ask more questions if you are troubled by anything you have read.

The implementation of your decisions will depend on the current standards of medical and nursing care, the limits of existing resources, and the guidelines of the JGH critical intervention policy.

Where?

The document is available through Social Services, Admitting, Emergency and the Herzl Family Practice Centre of the SMBD Jewish General Hospital.

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