

LEAVING LIFE GOD'S WAY

LIVING WILL

Declaration made this _____, day of _____, 20___. I _____, make this statement at a time of sound mind to convey my wishes and desires regarding my medical care, should the time come where I am incapable of communicating the same. I have full confidence that my designated medical surrogate will effectively communicate my goals of care to the medical staff in charge of my care at the time, in full accordance with this living will statement. If my surrogate is not available, then I wish for this document to serve as the foundation for all decisions made regarding my care.

I first want to define what quality of life means to me. As a believer in Christ Jesus, I know my time on earth is limited and Heaven awaits me because of my trust in Jesus as my true Savior. That time on earth is, to the best of my ability, based on the purpose God has for me to spread the Good News of His love, and glorify His kingdom. Not unlike the Apostle Paul, I know that when the day comes where I'm called to Heaven, I win, and through the time I have on earth loving Jesus, I also win. I am not afraid of death.

The primary factor that determines that quality of life from a practical perspective, which is what my physicians will need, is my ability to communicate effectively to others and make informed decisions. If that ability is permanently lost, through either an acute event or chronic disease such as dementia, then there is no earthly quality of life for me as I could no longer carry out my spiritual purposes. Within the ability to communicate my quality of life lie the personal options to choose aggressive or comfort care approaches depending on my own assessment of the innumerable possible medical circumstances that I may face over a lifetime and how they would affect that quality of life. As an example, if I develop dementia to the point where I can't effectively communicate my quality of life or make informed decisions for myself, then it is likely that I also can't communicate when I am suffering or that I would not want ongoing aggressive medical treatments that serve only to prolong that suffering. Acute events, such as stroke, brain trauma, meningitis, etc., can all result in the same, possibly permanent, lack of mental capacity and capability.

In the event that I am incapable of communicating effectively enough to make an informed decision, I direct my surrogate to obtain an assessment from my physicians as to what the prognosis is for me to return to a place where I could once again effectively understand and communicate my own quality of life and desires. If the prognosis, medically-not spiritually, speaking, is very poor, then I want NO life sustaining measures (medications, tube feedings, procedures, IV hydration etc.), and only wish to be kept comfortable. If the prognosis is fair and the expected treatment course is defined and would not cause me undo suffering, then I leave the decisions regarding the treatment approach to the judgment of my surrogate. They will continually assess the progress, or lack of, and should the time come where the fair prognosis is declining or not improving after a pre-specified period of time, then a full comfort approach would once again be my desire.

In summary, I wish to again stress the primary importance of my mental capacity as the most important determinant of quality of life. That capacity, or prognosis for the same, therefore should be of critical

consideration as all medical and treatment goals are formulated. I have purposefully left out many medical scenarios that don't involve mental capacity such as stroke resulting in inability to move one side, throat cancer preventing speech or ability to eat, facial trauma leading to blindness, dialysis requiring 12 hours per week in a dialysis unit on a machine. There are many, many others, but the point is made. If I should be afflicted with any of these disease states, or others where my mental capacity remains intact, I will be able to communicate what I want or don't want. Therefore, mental capacity, to me, is the only one that matters.

If the above scenario should befall me, I have hope that family and friends would pray faithfully for a Great Big Miracle and full healing, not a half healing. If God should heal me in my earthly body, I will praise His name, if He heals me by taking me to Heaven, then that will be a true praise as well. Either way, I win!

Thank You,

Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of:

Witness

Print or type name

Witness

Print or type name

_____ (SEAL)

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF _____

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this _____ day of _____, 20__, by _____ who is personally known to me or who has produced a Florida driver's license/ID card as identification.

Notary Public, State of Florida

(NOTARIAL

SEAL)

My Commission Expires: