

HARRISON SURGERY CENTER

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES:

The Surgery Center does not recognize Advance Directives for use in this setting and will use all measures possible to sustain life. If you have an Advance Directive, you may provide us a copy. If an emergency transfer occurs it will be sent with your records.

Advance Directive forms are available upon request. These are provided to you as a public service. They are provided "as is" and are not the substitute for the advice of an attorney.

Living Wills and Health Care Proxies under Arkansas Law

Under Arkansas Law an individual has the right to accept or refuse treatment. When an individual is terminally ill or permanently unconscious, it can be difficult or impossible to make decisions of this magnitude. Accordingly, the Arkansas Legislature developed and passed laws regarding the form and formality by which an individual can make these "advance directives" or "declarations" regarding what medical care one should receive if he or she is terminally ill or permanently unconscious.

Summary of Arkansas Law - Definitions

Attending Physician	The physician who has primary care of the patient.
Life-Sustaining Treatment	Any medical procedure serving only to prolong the process of dying or to maintain permanent unconsciousness.
Qualified Patient	A patient 18 years of age or older who has made a Living Will declaration or appointed a health care proxy and has been determined by the attending physician to be in a terminal condition or permanently unconscious state.
Terminal Condition	An incurable and irreversible condition that, without the administration of life-sustaining treatment, will, in the opinion of the attending physician, result in death within a relatively short period of time.

Permanently Unconscious A last condition, without change, in which thought, feeling, sensation and awareness of self and environment are absent.

Declaration An individual 18 years or older and of sound mind can execute a declaration governing the withholding of life-sustaining treatment. The declaration should be signed by the individual and two witnesses. A health care provider who is given a copy of the declaration should make it a part of the individual's medical record.

Revocation A declaration can be revoked at any time and in any manner. A revocation is effective when communicated. The health care provider should make the revocation part of the medical record.

Treatment of the Patient Nothing in this law effects the physician or health care providers' responsibility to provide treatment, including nutrition and hydration, for the individual's comfort, care or alleviation of pain. A declaration by an individual cannot be given effect if the individual is pregnant and life-sustaining treatment might permit a live birth.

Physician Compliance An attending physician who is unwilling to comply with an individual's declaration shall transfer the patient to another physician.

DISCLOSURE OF OWNERSHIP:

A physician performing the procedure may have an ownership interest in this facility. These procedures are performed at hospitals and other outpatient facilities in this community. You have the right to choose where to receive services, including a facility where your physician does or does not have an ownership interest.