

Advanced Decisions and Living Wills

There may be a point in the future when you will be unable to make decisions about the medical treatment or the care that you receive. This could be as the result of mental illness or other physical illness. If you have strong preferences about your treatment in these circumstances it you may want to have an Advance Decision or a Living Will.

Advanced Decisions

In an advanced decision you set out what you would choose in certain circumstances. The decision is given to your GP and others who you trust to ensure that should you become unable to make decisions or communicate your wishes in the future your decision is still followed.

Specific issues that you may want to address in your advance decision are: -

- Refusal of life sustaining treatment
- DNR (Do Not Resuscitate)
- Refusal of specific medication
- Refusal of other treatment

There are some decisions that cannot be made by advance decision and there are circumstances in which it would be more appropriate to have a Lasting Power of Attorney. We can help you to ensure that your Advanced Decision is clearly worded and legally valid.

Living Wills/ Advance Statements

A living will (sometimes known as advanced statement) is not binding but acts as guidance to professionals involved in your care. In your living will you can set out your preferences for care and treatment should you lose the ability to make these choices in the future.

You may want to include preferences about medication, for example you may have found that some medication is more effective than others. You may want to set out your feelings about residential care and whether you would want to avoid this if possible in the future.

If you would like to arrange an initial consultation to discuss and Advanced Decision or living will please call us on 0113 243 2288 or email us at cop@henryhams.com.