

ADVANCE DECISIONS

Deciding your future medical treatment

What is an Advance Decision?

Many of us have clear ideas as to how we would wish to be treated and cared for in the event of future illness or serious injury. These might include certain medical treatments or procedures that we would not want to receive. Far fewer of us, however, take active steps to formalise these wishes in writing.

It is possible to prepare an Advance Decision (often called a 'Living Will') which allows you to specify what treatment you would want to refuse – including life sustaining treatment. An Advance Decision must comply with certain legal formalities to be valid and a note of any decision should be kept with your medical records.

Advance Decisions will only take effect when you have lost mental capacity. Until that point you retain the ability to make decisions about your health and treatment.

An Advance Decision can	An Advance Decision cannot
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deal with the refusal of specified medical treatment in certain distinct circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Require your medical team to give you specific treatment.Give someone else the right to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are incapacitated.Allow you to refuse basic nursing care or to request the acceleration of your death by drugs or other means or to refuse certain treatment if you are detained under the Mental Health Act.

If you have done something that is inconsistent with the Advance Decision since it was made, then it may not be followed, so you need to think carefully about your wishes.

Another situation when an Advance Decision might not be implemented is if circumstances arise which medical staff believe that, had you anticipated them, would have affected your decision.

Lasting Power of Attorney

You may prefer someone else make decisions on your behalf. If so, then a Lasting Power of Attorney may be more appropriate. It is possible to prepare both documents, but care should be taken to ensure that they do not contradict each other.

How can GL Law help you?

We have specialist lawyers who will take time to get to know you in order to provide you with advice tailored to your specific needs and wishes.

Full and transparent information about our fees structure will be provided at the outset, and the basis of our charging agreed before we begin work.

For more information or to speak to a solicitor please contact us by calling 0117 906 9400 or email hello@gl.law

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6 Queen Square Bristol BS1 4JE
0117 906 9400
hello@gl.law