

# What is an Advance Directive?

- A way to tell others what medical care you do or do not want if you become too sick to make these decisions. Only you (not a family member) can complete and sign this directive.
- Types of Directives include:
  - Healthcare (Medical) Power of Attorney
  - Living Will
  - Prehospital Medical Care Directive
  - Mental Healthcare Power of Attorney

## What happens if I am unable to communicate my healthcare decisions?

- If you have not named someone in a healthcare directive to make decisions for you, your doctors must seek a surrogate to make decisions on your behalf.
- According to Arizona law, the order of people authorized to act as a surrogate and make healthcare decisions for you is:
  - Spouse, unless you are legally separated
  - Majority of Adult children over the age of 18
  - Parent
  - Domestic partner
  - Brother or Sister
  - Close friend
  - 2 physicians

## Healthcare (Medical) Power of Attorney

- Allows you to appoint someone to make medical decisions if you cannot make them yourself. You should choose someone who knows you well enough to know what is important to you and will respect and support your medical wishes.
- You can name an alternate Healthcare Power of Attorney in case the first person is not available.
- Must be signed by you and dated in front of a witness **or** notary. The witness to your signature cannot be related to you by marriage or adoption or benefit from your estate.

## Living Will

- A written statement about what treatment you would or would not want
- Must be signed by you and dated in front of a witness **or** notary. Witness to your signature cannot be related to you by marriage or adoption or benefit from your estate.

## Pre-Hospital Directive (also known as an Orange Form, Do Not Resuscitate)

- In the event that your heart stops or you stop breathing, you would not want CPR or life support (ventilator).
- This form is valid outside of the hospital and in the Emergency Room in the State of Arizona.

## **Mental Healthcare Power of Attorney**

- Allows your designated decision maker to consent for psychiatric treatment if needed.

## **What do you do once you have completed your Advance Directive?**

- Provide copies to the healthcare power of attorney that you have listed, your physicians and the health care facilities when you are admitted.