



RECOMMENDED RESIDENT DOCUMENTS

The following documents are recommended for consideration for the Resident to have upon admission to the Community and can assist in allowing the Resident to make some critical healthcare decisions before the need arises to do so.

1. Georgia Advanced Directive (AD) for Healthcare

When properly completed and witnessed, this document allows **the Resident** to tell their family and healthcare providers how they would like them to precede in caring for the Resident, under certain circumstances, should the Resident no longer be able to make those decisions for the Resident's self. This document also allows the Resident to name someone the Resident trusts to speak for the Resident, regarding healthcare decisions, if the Resident is unable to speak for himself/herself.

This document must be completed while the Resident still has decision making capacity. It can be changed or revoked at any time, if the Resident chose to do so.

If the Resident provides others with a copy of this document the Resident should keep a list of the names of those who have it so that the Resident can replace those copies with any revised versions the Resident may have or destroy the copies if the Resident wish to revoke it completely.

The document must be filled out correctly and **properly witnessed** to be a legally binding document.

In 2007, the state legislature updated the Georgia Code to allow for this single document to replace the, "Living Will," and, "Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare" that were previously used.

If the Resident chooses to execute this document, instructions are included with the, "Georgia Advanced Directives for Healthcare" form and must be followed to ensure a legal document is created.

2. Living Will (LW) and Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare (DPOAHC)

Prior to 2007 when the Georgia legislature "consolidated" these two legal documents into the Georgia AD for Healthcare, the LW was used to verify the Resident's wishes for healthcare choices



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and the DPOAHC was used to indicate who the Resident choose to make healthcare decision in the event the Resident did not have the capacity to do so for himself/herself. If a Resident has either or both of these documents properly prepared and witnessed in accordance with Georgia law, they remain effective for the purposes outlined until the Resident revokes them in accordance with Georgia Law or the Resident replaces either or both with the Georgia AD for Healthcare.

3. Code Status Decision

In the event a Resident prefers that no attempt be made to revive them in the event they are found in a state of unresponsiveness and are not breathing (no pulse and no breathing evident), the Resident or the Resident's healthcare representative must give consent and a physician must sign a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order that is kept in the Resident's medical records wherever the Resident may be receiving care. Without this order, healthcare workers are required to attempt resuscitation.

A Georgia POLST form, one of the Community DNR forms, or an order written by the Resident's attending physician can be used for this. All must be signed by the Resident's attending physician. The POLST form and the appropriate Community form(s) also need to be signed by the Resident or the Resident's healthcare representative.

4. Who can legally be the Resident's healthcare representative in the event the Resident no longer has the capacity to make the Resident's own decisions?

The person(s) the Resident selects and names in the Resident's properly executed AD, LW, or DPOAHC.

If the Resident does not have these documents appointing a legal representative, the following persons are authorized to act on behalf of the Resident in the order in which they are listed:

1. Spouse
2. Court appointed guardian
3. Son or daughter over the age of 18
4. A parent
5. A brother or sister over the age of 18