



ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

ABOUT ADVANCE DIRECTIVES:

Advance Directives are legal documents that allow you to make your family and physician aware of what kind of medical care you would like to receive if you become unable to make medical decisions for yourself. They serve to guide your family and physician in deciding what treatments you may want and what type of treatments you do NOT want to receive. Another common name for this type of document is a “Living Will”. We are required by law to give you information explaining advance directives and provide you with the forms needed to complete one, if you wish to do so. It is your right, as the patient, to decide if you do or do not wish to execute an advance directive. We must document that you were given the information and offered the opportunity.

There are different types of advance directives, although several areas may be combined in one document. You may decide to execute some, or all, of the document. The following are areas that may be included:

- You have the right to appoint a specific person to direct your healthcare if you are unable to do so. This person is called your “agent”, “healthcare representative”, or “healthcare proxy”.
- You have the right to give instructions for healthcare providers to follow regarding what types of treatments you do or do not want in the event you are unable to make these decisions for yourself.

Laws regarding advance directives vary from state to state. The information we provide to patients regarding these documents are based on Louisiana regulations. You may also obtain additional information from any hospital or your attorney. We are required by law to inform every patient scheduled for a procedure in our center about what advance directives are, the Lafayette General Endoscopy Center (LGEC) policy regarding the use of advance directives at the facility, and to ask if the patient currently has, or wishes to execute, an advance directive.

LGEC POLICY REGARDING USE OF ADVANCE DIRECTIVES:

As stated earlier, LGEC will provide you with information regarding advance directives and give you the forms needed to complete one, if you wish to do so. If you already have an advance directive or execute one after receiving information from us, we ask that you **bring a copy with you at the time of your procedure** – to be included in your medical record. Your chart will be marked indicating that you have an advanced directive on file with our

facility. Due to the fact that we are an outpatient facility, and you are coming here to have an ELECTIVE, non-emergency procedure, we certainly expect that all of our patients will come in, have their procedure, and quickly leave the facility with no problems. Although there is a low risk for complications in the procedures we perform here – especially of a life-threatening nature – such an event could occur. While you are being treated in the facility, our policy states that “all patients experiencing a medical emergency situation while in treatment at the center shall receive appropriate life support and resuscitative measures including, but not limited to, CPR, insertion of breathing tube, and other such treatment as directed by the attending medical staff.” Because of this, all patients and family members are notified prior to procedure that advance directives are NOT honored for the period of time that the patient is undergoing treatment in our facility. Any patient experiencing a life threatening medical or surgical condition shall be transferred immediately to an appropriate acute care facility for further treatment. A notation will be made on patient transfer documentation that the patient has an advance directive executed, and if a copy of the document has been provided to us, we will send a copy with the transfer documents. In addition, verbal acknowledgement of the existence of an advance directive will be given to the transport team and to the receiving facility when they are notified of impending transfer. At the point of arrival at the acute care facility, the implementation of the advance directive would occur and the patient’s wishes expressed in the document would be honored.

Please contact our facility at 337-289-8249 if you have any additional questions regarding Advance Directives. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, excluding holidays.