



Advance Directive

Plan for Your Future with Advance Directives

Sometimes, it is hard for us to imagine that there will ever be a time when we will be incapacitated or unable to make our thoughts or wishes known to those around us. But for anyone with a family or loved ones to protect, or strong feelings as to what will happen to you if you become incapacitated, it is vitally important to have, in place, something referred to as an Advance Directive.

What Is An Advance Directive?

An advance directive is an individual's written instructions as to one's future medical care and treatment, done in "advance" of any incident or need. By stating your health care choices in an advance directive, you help your family and physician fully understand your wishes about your medical care. It is important that you work with an experienced Indiana Advance Directive Attorney to be certain that your wishes are made legal: Indianapolis, Indiana Estate Planning Lawyer Barbara J. Baird has the experience and knowledge you require to make sure your wishes are carried out.

An advance directive may name a person of your choice to make health care choices for you if you cannot make the choices for yourself, or you may use an advance directive to prevent certain individuals from making health care decisions for you. Advance directives are only used if you become incapacitated; as long as you are able to decide and express your own

decisions, your advance directives will not be used. The circumstances for an advance directive are if either you are unable to communicate or your physician has assessed that you no longer have the mental competence to make choices.

If you do not have an advance directive in place and are unable to choose medical care or treatment, Indiana law decides who can do this for you. Indiana law allows any member of your immediate family or a person appointed by an Indiana court to make healthcare choices for you. If you want to be certain that whatever happens to you is decided by YOU, it is vital to contact an Indiana Advance Directive Lawyer to draw up an advance directive that clear up any mystery about your wishes. Contact Attorney Barbara J. Baird at her Indianapolis office at (317) 426-9334.