

Advance Health Care Planning

James A. Jaeger
Hill, Glowacki, Jaeger & Hughes, LLP
2010 Eastwood Dr. #301
Madison WI 53704

jjaeger@hill-law-firm.com

608-244-1354

Declaration to Physicians

- Oldest advanced medical directive
- Direct communication with health care providers
- End of Life Decisions only
 - Turn off life support
 - Withhold or withdraw feeding tube
- Takes effect when a “terminal condition” or “persistent vegetative state”
- Does not allow decision making for other than End of Life Decisions

DNR Bracelet

- Newest Medical Directive
- Only prescribed by physician
- Must be a “qualified patient”
 - Terminal Condition
 - Attempts at resuscitation would be ultimately futile
 - Attempts at resuscitation would cause pain
- Prescribes a wrist band
- Aimed at first responders

Power of Attorney for Health Care

- Most recent health care advance directive (1990)
- Authorizes an agent to speak for principal
- Any kind of health care decision
- Takes effect if one is incapacitated
 - Unable to receive, evaluate or communicate information relating to health care
 - Certified by Two Doctors
 - Not in effect until this is done (called activation)
 - Even after activation, wishes of “principal” take precedence “at any time”
- Idea behind document: the Agent makes decisions you would make if you could make them for yourself.

- This means that you have to talk with agent about your views related to health care
- Who should be your agent?
 - Shares or sympathizes with views and values
 - Strong enough to make tough decisions
 - Assertive enough to be your advocate
 - Proximity, birth order, gender doesn't really matter. What matters is who you feel will make the best decisions for you
- Specific Decisions
 - Admission to nursing home or CBRF
 - Withhold or withdraw feeding tube
 - Decisions if you are pregnant
- You can revoke at any time
- Guardianship will not revoke