

The Dementia Provision

Most Advance Directives become operative only when a person is unable to make health care decisions because of being “permanently unconscious” or “terminally ill.” There is usually no provision that applies to the situation in which a person suffers from severe dementia but is neither unconscious nor dying.

The following language can be added to any Advance Directive or Living Will. There it will serve to advise physicians and family of the wishes of a patient with Alzheimer’s Disease or other forms of dementia. You may simply sign and date this form and include it in your Advance Directive.

If I remain conscious but have a progressive illness that will be fatal and the illness is in an advanced stage, and I am consistently and permanently unable to communicate, swallow food and water safely, care for myself and recognize my family and other people, and it is very unlikely that my condition will substantially improve, I would like my wishes regarding specific life-sustaining treatments, as indicated below, to be followed.

If I am unable to feed myself or drink by myself while in this condition:

I ___do / ___do not (indicate one) want to be offered food.

I ___do / ___do not (indicate one) want to be fed.

I ___do / ___do not (indicate one) want to be offered liquid to drink.

I ___do / ___do not (indicate one) want to receive artificial hydration administered to me.

I ___do / ___do not (indicate one) want to receive artificial nutrition administered to me.

I hereby incorporate this provision in my Advance Directives for health care decisions.

Signature

Date