

# Advance Directive Patient Information

This information is being provided to you for reference only, and is not intended as legal advice. You should consult with your family, attorney or other advisors about Advance Directives for your medical treatment. The Patient Self Determination Act (PSDA) requires most health care facilities to advise patients of their health care decision-making rights. This document is intended to comply with that law. Under Montana law, all individuals of sound mind and 18 years of age or older have the right to make all their own decisions about medical treatment, or whether to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment. They also have the right to make an Advance Directive about their future health care.

## What is an Advance Directive?

An Advance Directive is a general term that describes the documents you can use to give instructions about your future medical care in the event you are or become unable to make or communicate your decisions. Advance Directives are generally in writing, and can take several forms under Montana law.

A Health Care Proxy allows the patient to appoint a health care agent – that is, someone they trust to make health care decisions for them if they are unable to make decisions for themselves. A Living Will allows the patient to leave written instructions that explain their health care wishes, especially about end-of-life care. A Living Will together with a Health Care Proxy lets the patient state their health care wishes and name a health care agent. A Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNR) lets the patient express their wish to do without cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

## Should you have an Advance Directive?

The decision is yours. Montana law does not require that you have one. All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions and to make Advance Directives. Billings Cataract & Laser Surgicenter respects and upholds those rights. Unlike in an “acute care” hospital setting, Billings Cataract & Laser Surgicenter does not routinely perform “high risk” procedures. No surgery is without risk; however, most procedures performed in our facility are considered very low risk. You will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your physician who can answer your questions as to the procedure’s risks, possible side-effects, your expected recovery, and care after your surgery.

## Is an Advance Directive part of my Medical Record?

If you have an Advance Directive, we encourage you to present our facility with a copy. This copy will be made a part of your medical file and made available to St. Vincent Healthcare or Billings Clinic in the event of a transfer to the hospital. You will also be allowed to change or revoke your Advance Directive at any time and your file will be updated.

## DOES BILLINGS CATARACT & LASER SURGICENTER RECOGNIZE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES?

**NO.** Patients of Billings Cataract & Laser Surgicenter waive any right to an Advance Directive. At Billings Cataract & Laser Surgicenter, only elective surgical procedures to stable patients designed to enhance life are performed. In accordance with Billings Cataract & Laser Surgicenter Policy and the Montana State Rights of the Terminally Ill Act, we will always attempt to resuscitate a patient and transfer that patient to a hospital if complications arise.

**Where can you receive more information about an Advance Directive?** You can obtain up-to-date Montana State information about Advance Directives from the State of Montana Health and Human Services Department of Health by calling 1-800-332-2272 or at:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/services/aging/legal/index.shtml>

[https://courts.mt.gov/portals/113/library/forms/end\\_life/advance\\_directive.pdf](https://courts.mt.gov/portals/113/library/forms/end_life/advance_directive.pdf)

<https://dojmt.gov/consumer/end-of-life-registry/>