

What are advance directives?

- Forms you sign to give directions about healthcare decisions
- Are **only** used if you are unable to communicate what care you want
- Help make sure that your wishes about your care are followed
- Concern **only** your healthcare, not your money or property

Durable power of attorney for health care

- Legal form you sign that says who you want to make medical decisions for you if you are too sick to speak for yourself
- The person you choose can decide what kind of medical care you receive
- Should be someone you trust who understands the care you want
- Must be witnessed by two people or notarized

Living will

- Legal form you sign stating what kind of medical care you want at the end of your life, if there is no chance you'll get better

How to make an advance directive

- Your social worker has forms and more information; you don't need a lawyer
- Discuss your wishes with your doctor and your family
- After you make an advance directive, give copies to:
 - Your doctors
 - Your dialysis center
 - Other healthcare providers

What if I don't have advance directives, and I'm too sick to say what care I want?

- Under Washington law, family members, in order of how they are related to you, will make decisions
- If you have no relatives, a judge may have to decide about your care

What if I change my mind?

- You can cancel or make new advance directives and get rid of old forms
- Let your family, friends and health care providers know you made changes and give them updated copies