

What other kinds of medical treatments may doctors withhold?

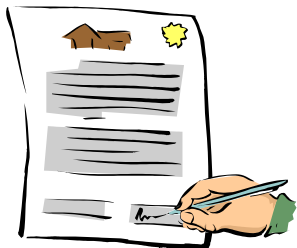
- A. Any and all medical treatments including blood transfusions, oxygen, breathing aids, antibiotics, etc.

Am I required by law to have a Living Will?

- A. Absolutely not! There is *no* legal requirement for anyone to sign a living will; it is purely voluntary.

What should I do now?

- A. First, destroy any and all copies you may have of the S.C. Living Will. Then, obtain and fill out the pro-life alternative known as the Will to Live that can protect your life should you become incapable of making your own medical decisions.
- ◆ **The Will to Live**, a pro-life alternative to the S.C. Living Will, is available from South Carolina Citizens for Life. Or download it at www.nrlc.org



South Carolina Citizens for Life
The first civil right is the right to life.



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**What's Wrong With
South Carolina's
Living Will?**

**DECEPTIVE!
DISHONEST!
DANGEROUS!**

By Wayne Cockfield
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FACTS ABOUT THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIVING WILL

What is the South Carolina Living Will?

A. The South Carolina Living Will is a legal document whereby you may make your wishes known in advance about your medical care should you become incapacitated and unable to make your own medical decisions. The power to decide when the Living Will goes into effect belongs to the attending physician.

Isn't this a good idea to ensure that I will die with dignity instead of being "hooked up" to machines and kept alive against my will?

A. That's the propaganda, but patients have always had the right to refuse treatment. The question is not being kept alive against your will; the question is being killed against your will. The Living Will takes control from the patient and transfers it to the doctor, while at the same time, absolving the doctor of legal responsibility for your premature death.

Why do you say that the Living Will is deceptive, dishonest, and dangerous?

A. It is **deceptive** because it utilizes vague terms without defining them. For example, many assume an attending physician is the family doctor. In reality, it is the doctor assigned to your case and can be a total stranger.

A. It is **dishonest** because it uses terms everyday people may not understand. When someone reads "*medically and surgically implanted tubes,*" they may not understand this can be as simple as an IV in the arm. Also, many check the box directing that nutrition and hydration *NOT* be provided without realizing this is food and water. If you check this box, you have just agreed to be thirsted and starved to death.

A. Finally, it is **dangerous** because it will kill you against your will.



But if I change my mind and decide I do want food and water, can't I just tell my physician to give me food and drink?

A. Not necessarily. Patient requests for food and water have been denied because medical authorities rule the patient is not mentally competent to change the treatment decisions of the Living Will, and the patient has died.

Are you saying food and water are medical treatments that hospitals may legally withhold?

A. Yes. Court decisions have largely settled this. "Nutrition and hydration," technical terms for food and water, are medical treatments physicians may order withheld from the patient, thereby insuring death by starvation and thirst.

