

## Will/Health Care Directive Registries By Gary Case

One of the most thoughtful things we can do for our loved ones is to help them understand our wishes for end-of-life events. Wills, living wills, appropriate powers of attorney, and other directions can help families and friends cling together at difficult times instead of facing gut-wrenching decisions without direction or counsel from their loved one.

Effective July 1, 2007, a new form called POST (Physician Order for Scope of Treatment) replaces DNR (do not resuscitate) or Comfort One forms. Your physician must sign the new POST form, so the next time you go to your doctor; you might want to ask about this form. Since a physician must sign the form, you should probably have them help you complete it.

Instructions for your doctor to complete the form include questions about CPR if you are not breathing or do not have a pulse, treatments if you are breathing and have a pulse, whether or not you want a feeding tube, IV fluids, antibiotics or blood products, and if you have a living will in place. After you and your physician complete and sign the form, you will receive a copy, and your doctor will file copies in the appropriate places so that it is accessible when needed by health care providers. You may also wish to obtain jewelry that identifies your POST's existence.

You can then register your POST and living will in a registry. While you must mail the registration packet to the Secretary of State's office, you can access the registration packet at <http://www.idsos.state.id.us>, or you can call 332-2814. After you submit your information, you will receive from the Secretary's office the following; your documents, a wallet size card, and additional information about using the registry. There is no charge to use this directory.

While you're at it, consider another registry maintained by the state where you can store information about where your will is located. There is a \$10 fee to register your will's location, but the office says they will allow you to notify them of a change in location without submitting an additional fee. No copies of wills are maintained at the office, only the location, and that will only be revealed to interest persons (a very specific definition). Additional information is available about the will registry by contacting the Secretary of State's office at their website or phone number above.

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