

Prepared by:

LAW OFFICES OF
CHESTER B. McLAUGHLIN
4545 East Shea Boulevard
Suite 173
Phoenix, AZ 85028
Telephone: (602) 494-8022

SUGGESTED TOPICS TO DISCUSS WITH YOU HEALTH CARE AGENT

You should discuss your beliefs and wishes with your health care agent now so that if you ever become incapacitated, you will be sure your wishes are carried out, and your agent will feel more comfortable in making decisions. We suggest you consider the following questions in guiding your agent:

1. How would you describe your current health status?
2. If you have current medical problems, in what ways, if any, do they affect your ability to function?
3. How do these problems impact upon your attitude towards your death?
4. How do you feel about the use of life-sustaining measures in the face of terminal illness?
5. How do you feel about the use of life-sustaining measures in the face of permanent unconsciousness? Or a locked-in state when you would be unable to communicate in any manner?
6. How do you feel about the use of life-sustaining measures in the face of irreversible chronic illness (e.g. Alzheimer's Disease)?
7. How do you feel about the use of comfort care, including potentially addictive drug medications?
8. How important is your independence and self-sufficiency?
9. If your physical and mental abilities were to deteriorate, is there a point at which your reliance on others for your care would become so great that you would prefer not to be treated?
10. Do you want treatment if a medical problem could be treated successfully?

11. Do you feel that a trial period of treatment should be attempted before life support is withheld or withdrawn?
12. Under what conditions, if any, would you want the withholding of the following medical treatments?
 - a. Kidney dialysis (used if your kidneys stop working);
 - b. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation, also called CPR (used if your heart stops beating);
 - c. Respirator (used if you are unable to breathe on your own);
 - d. Artificial nutrition (used if you are unable to eat food);
 - e. Artificial hydration (used if you are unable to drink).
13. What will be important to you when you are dying (e.g. physical comfort, no pain, family members present, attempted communication by family when it appears you may not be aware)?
14. Where would you prefer to die?
15. Do you want to donate parts of your body to someone else at the time of your death (organ donation)?
16. How would you feel about an autopsy being done if the cause of your death is unknown?
17. How do your religious beliefs affect your attitude towards these issues?
18. Do you want a religious representative to be consulted concerning decisions regarding your life support?