



## **Advance Health Directive**

An Advance Health Directive (AHD) is a document that contains your decisions about your future health treatment including medical, surgical and dental treatment and other health care.

You can make an AHD which either consents, or refuses consent, to future health treatment. For example, you may say you want or do not want a certain treatment.

An AHD comes into effect only if you are unable to make reasonable decisions about your health treatment and can say you either want a certain treatment or, alternatively, you don't want a certain treatment.

Like a Will or Enduring Power of Attorney, you can make an AHD if you are 18 or over and have full legal capacity.

The treatment decisions contained in your AHD will come into effect if you are unable to make decisions about your treatment. Other than certain limited circumstances, health professionals are required to comply with your treatment decisions.

If you do not make an AHD, treatment decisions will be made by others on your behalf. You can appoint a specific person to make treatment decisions on your behalf by appointing an Enduring Guardian (a separate document). This is fine if you are confident your Enduring Guardian will follow your wishes. However, by completing an AHD you control your treatment decisions.

Note that an Enduring Guardian is different to an Enduring Attorney – the first can make decisions about your lifestyle and health treatments while the second can make decisions about financial matters. Additionally, a Will only takes effect following death. To be completely covered most people should consider completing all three documents.

Completing an AHD (and/or Enduring Power of Attorney/Guardianship) can ensure personal or religious beliefs are followed.

We are happy to prepare any (or all) of the documents mentioned above on your behalf for a fixed and fair price.

Contact us now to discuss your needs.

*The information in this article is general in nature and is not, and should not be relied upon as, legal advice. You should obtain advice specific to your circumstances from a lawyer, Legal Aid WA or a community legal centre.*