

	Living Will	DNR	Durable POA for Healthcare
What is it?	Document created under the Illinois Living Will Act which allows a person to directly dictate his or her desires with respect to the administration of “life sustaining procedures” during a “terminal illness	Do not resuscitate order, or DNR, is a medical treatment order instructing medical providers that CPR shall not be attempted if your heart and/or breathing stops	Legal document in which you delegate health care decisions to a trusted person in the event you are incapacitated and are unable to make your own health care decisions
When can it be used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be suffering from an irreversible and incurable injury or illness ▪ Injury or illness must be determined to be a terminal condition by attending physician ▪ Death must be imminent without the implementation of death delaying procedures/treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Either heart has stopped or breathing has stopped 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ordinarily effective immediately upon its execution, absent special directions ▪ Lasts until death, but can be revoked sooner
What treatment decisions are affected?	Treatment at issue must be considered a life sustaining treatment	CPR	Agent can make any medical decisions you could make, absent any special limits
Advantages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Relieves family of burden of making difficult decision with regard to life sustaining treatment ▪ Allows you to directly make decisions, as opposed to nominating a person to make decisions on your behalf ▪ Particularly valuable if no readily available agent to make decisions or if in final stages of terminal illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Like the living will, it relieves the burden on your family of making difficult decisions with regard to the administration of CPR ▪ Allows you to directly make decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extremely flexible ▪ Ensures legally authorized agent is available to make any informed decision after considering the particular circumstances and the available information ▪ Can do everything a living will and DNR can do, plus more ▪ Can be customized to meet specific wishes of the individual
Disadvantages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rigid and inflexible ▪ Fails to address any circumstance short of life sustaining treatment in the event of imminent death ▪ Food and water interpretation problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rigid and inflexible ▪ Often fails to parallel an individual’s wishes except in extreme conditions with extreme medical problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must have trusted agent available who is willing and able to assist ▪ Chosen agent ultimately bears the burden of making the treatment decision