

## **ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE**

In California, an Advance Health Care Directive is a single form which is used to put forth your health care instructions and names of agents you have selected to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to make them. In other states, two forms are used: the living will and the durable power of attorney for health care. The Advance Health Care Directive combines these two forms.

This document is a planning tool for incapacity and allows you to make health care decisions while you still have the ability to do so. If you lose capacity, however, the directive informs your agents and doctors as to whether or not you want extraordinary medical measures taken, even if those measures would only prolong the dying process. Some of the types of information you may also include in your directive are: if you would like pain medication, even if it hastens your death; if you would like to be an organ donor; and cremation or burial.