

Advanced Directive and Durable Power of Attorney
A Letter to My Loved Ones

The Rest of Your Life recommends that you review completed documents with an attorney, especially if there are mitigating circumstances surrounding your Advanced Directive or Durable Power of Attorney.

Recap. What Is?

A Letter to My Loved Ones

Think of the people who mean the most to you. Friends and/or family.

Write these people on a separate piece of paper and for each person, recall your favorite memory involving them. Include nicknames you had for them. Let them know if there is an item you would personally want them to have. List the qualities that you admire and love about them.

Share of the hopes and dreams you have for their future.



A letter to my loved ones...

Dear Loved Ones,

I want the best quality of life possible during my last days.
Therefore, I hereby request as follows...

(a) I ask that medical treatment to alleviate pain, to provide comfort, and to mitigate suffering be provided so that I may be as free of pain and suffering as possible. Please consult with my doctor in this regard.

(b) If my temperature is above normal, I want a cool moist cloth put on my head.

(c) I want my mouth and lips kept moist.

(d) I need to be kept fresh and clean at all times. I wish to have warm baths often or warm showers, if I am stable enough for a shower.

(e) I desire to be massaged with or without warm oils as often as you think will help maintain my skin integrity and provide for my comfort.

(f) I want my personal care such as nail clipping, hair combing, teeth brushing and shaving as long as they do not cause me pain.

I hope my family and friends would consider that...

(a) I enjoy your company and want you with me when possible. I desire that one of you stay with me when it seems that my death may be imminent.

(b) Please continue to talk to me about daily happenings and events, even if you think I don't understand, because I might be able to understand.

(c) Please don't be afraid to hold my hand or hug me.

(d) Please tell the members of my church or synagogue I am sick and ask them to pray for me and visit me.

(e) Please maintain a cheerful atmosphere around me.

(f) Please place pictures of my loved ones in my room, near my bed, or near the place I sit during the day.

(g) My clothes and bed linens are to be kept clean, and they are to be changed as soon as possible, if they have been soiled.

(h) If at all possible, allow me to die in my home.

(i) Please arrange for me to watch television or listen to my favorite sports events.

(j) Let me enjoy the outdoors as often as possible by letting me spend time in my yard, garden and other appropriate outdoor places, even if it causes slight discomfort to either you or me.

(k) I want to have my favorite types of music played when possible.

(l) I want to have religious readings read to me when I am near death.

(m) I want to have my favorite poems read to me from time to time.

I want you to know the following about my thoughts and concerns, if I am disabled and cannot convey these thoughts to you verbally...

(1) I want you to know that I love you.

(2) I would like to be forgiven for the times I have hurt you.

(3) I forgive you for what you may have done to me in my life.

(4) I want you to know that I do not fear death itself.

(5) I want all of my family members to recommit their love for one another.

(6) Please remember me the way I was before I had a terminal illness.

(7) Please help me maintain meaning to my life during this process of dying by realizing that this is an opportunity for personal growth for all.

(8) Don't be afraid to seek counseling, if you have trouble with my death.

If friends want to know how I want to be remembered, tell them the following...

The following person(s) know my funeral plans...

At any memorial service for me, I want to include the following music, songs, readings or other plans for such a service...

I also have the following requests...

These are requests of my family members, loved ones, and friends, and are not to be considered legal directives to my attorney-in-fact for health care, if any.

(If you wish to change your answer, you may do so by drawing an "X" through the answer you do not want, and circling the answer you prefer.)

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20 ____.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

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