

Planning for Uncertainty: A Guide to Living Wills and Other Advance Directives for Health Care

David John Doukas, William Reichel

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Planning for Uncertainty

A Guide to Living
Wills and Other
Advance Directives
for Health Care

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David John Doukas, William Reichel : Planning for Uncertainty: A Guide to Living Wills and Other Advance Directives for Health Care before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Planning for Uncertainty: A Guide to Living Wills and Other Advance Directives for Health Care:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Helpful to get the conversation going By A Customer An excellent

book that highlights how and why one can make decisions in end of life treatment. The book correctly sets aside the idiosyncracies of state forms (these are free from any doctor's office), and gets to the heart of _why_ to discuss this topic. This book is very helpful in starting and encouraging a conversation between family members and health care providers about what is important to the individual before and when the chips are down. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ABC BOOK ON ADVANCE DIRECTIVES FOR MEDICAL CARE By James L. Park John David Doukas, MD William Reichel, MD Planning for Uncertainty: A Guide to Living Wills and other Advance Directives for Health Care (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins, UP, 1993) 147 pages (ISBN: 0-8018-4670-6; hardcover) (ISBN: 0-8018-4671-4; paperback) (Library of Congress call number: KF3827.E87D68 1993) An elementary presentation--using question-and-answer format--of the basic facts about Advance Directives. Generic forms are included at the end of this volume. This book is probably too simple for most readers. But it could be a place to begin for someone who knows nothing about 'living wills', etc. A revised and expanded edition has been published. If you would like to read better books on Advance Directives, search the Internet for the following exact phrase: "Books on Advance Directives for Medical Care". James Leonard Park, medical ethicist 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Ethics not details By A Customer The author's comments are right on target. If you want to debate the reasons to have these documents, weigh ethical considerations, and write a values statement, this is the book for you. But if you buy the book already convinced you need these documents and what you want is a detailed list of suggestions, customized wording, state-specific information and forms, this book is disappointing.

Most of us are uncomfortable with thoughts of our own death or serious illness and so we put off decisions we ought to make when we're healthy, when we can spend time thinking about our values and preferences. Planning for Uncertainty tells you why it is important to think carefully about the final details of your life and to plan for the possibility that you won't be able to make your wishes known. As family physicians, the authors of Planning for Uncertainty have seen what happens when a person lacks any kind of advance directive for health care, becomes seriously ill or injured, and loses the capacity to express preferences and make decisions about health care. The result can be great anguish for families and needless suffering for patients. Planning for Uncertainty uses a question-and-answer format to explain what you need to know about advance directives the living will, the durable power of attorney, and the values history. All are intended to clearly document your preferences and decisions about life-sustaining health care, a practice strongly encouraged by the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990. The authors explain a broad range of medical choices, tell why and how to prepare advance directives, and explore ethical issues such as active euthanasia, assisted suicide, and passive euthanasia. Topics include The types and purposes of advance directives for health care The provisions of the Patient Self-Determination Act Deciding when medical treatment is beneficial and when is it futile How ethical principles affect health care decisions The legal significance of the living will and the durable power of attorney for health care Writing a "Values History" to outline your health care preferences Involving your family, your physician, and others With sample documents and a wealth of practical information, Planning for Uncertainty enables you to prepare for the possibility that some day you may be unable to communicate your health care decisions. It allows you to spare your family the difficult task of deciding for you and to spare yourself from futile medical procedures. Here is a comprehensive and reliable resource for everyone who wants to learn more about advance directives, including health care professionals, retirement counselors, and family legal advisers.

A helpful book for planning ahead... The authors are two U.S. family physicians who have done an admirable job of putting together some cogent advice for persons planning their health care direction and for the health professionals who might be advising them... Very clear descriptions are presented for the non-professional reader about cardiopulmonary resuscitation, ventilators, dialysis, enteral and parenteral nutrition, intravenous medication and hydration, autopsy, and organ donation. Hospice care is nicely outlined. (Journal of the American Board of Family Practice) About the Author David John Doukas, M.D., is assistant professor in the department of family practice at the University of Michigan Medical School and chair of the ethics committee at the Chelsea Community Hospital in Chelsea, Michigan. William Reichel, M.D., is director of the department of geriatrics and aging services at Boston Evening Medical Center, clinical professor of community health at Tufts University School of Medicine, and adjunct professor of family medicine at Brown University.