

Update on Common Errors on Advance Directive Forms Submitted to the WV e-Directive Registry

Submissions to the WV e-Directive Registry are coming in at over 20 a day. In an effort to make as many forms “registry ready” as possible, we are going to send e-newsletters periodically with some common errors that we are seeing. These errors can easily be avoided with a little attention to detail on the part of those who are completing the forms.

- A medical power of attorney document was witnessed by a family member of the principal. Documents can't be witnessed by anyone related to the principal by blood or marriage or entitled to any portion of the principal's estate.
- The person listed as the principal by the notary in the notary section of the form is the medical power of attorney representative and not the principal.
- The medical power of attorney representative completed a living will form for the patient. Only the patient can complete the living will form. If the patient has lost decision-making capacity, the physician must appoint a health care surrogate.
- The date on the first page of the medical power of attorney is not the same date that the witnesses and notary signed. Did the principal actually sign in front of the notary? Did the principal complete the document one day and take it to be notarized the next day?
- A physician was listed as the secondary representative for a patient. A treating health care provider cannot be named as the medical power of attorney representative unless he/she is a family member.

Advance directive forms (living wills, medical powers of attorney, and combined forms) can be downloaded from the WV Center for End-of-Life Care website at www.wvendoflife.org and FAXed to the Registry at 304-293-7442. Health care providers can obtain POST forms for their patients by calling the Center at 877-209-8086 or completing the online request form at <http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/chel/wvi/request.html>.

www.wvendoflife.org

877-209-8086