

# Advanced Directives Failures and Solutions

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Certified Elder Law Attorney

There are many reasons why “advance directives” — living wills and health care powers of attorney (HC POA) are failing about 80 percent of the time. Some reasons include: forgetting the forms, the hospital losing the forms, the forms not being recognized in other states and your preferences change. Also, an alarming report is that some doctors automatically assume they mean “Do Not Resuscitate” — contrary to a desire for life sustaining treatment.

While there are no perfect solutions, success can be increased by (1) “periodic review and renewal of the document,” as stated in the Michigan Catholic Conference’s “Guidelines for End



of Life Decisions”, 2006; (2) full discussion and education; and (3) a laminated emergency card in your wallet, the use of multi-state forms, showing the Health Care Power of Attorney rather than the living will and finding an experienced Elder Law firm to help.

For a free report, contact us at (906) 228-6212 or toll free in the Upper Peninsula at (877) 304-3119. You can also contact us via the Internet at [www.upelderlaw.com](http://www.upelderlaw.com).

*Robert C. Anderson, a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, is active with NAELA and has served over 6,000 families in the Upper Peninsula. His firm, the Elder Law Firm of Anderson Associates of 148 W. Hewitt, Marquette, MI 49855, is the longest-serving Elder Law firm in the U.P. We have six offices throughout the Upper Peninsula. We can be reached at (877) 304-3119 or at [upelderlaw@upelderlaw.com](mailto:upelderlaw@upelderlaw.com). The designation of Certified Elder Law Attorney is awarded by the National Elder Law Foundation, which is accredited by the American Bar Association.*



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