

Personal Directive

Policy No. 414

- Policy Statement:*** Archdiocesan priests are encouraged to write a personal directive.
- Intent of Policy:*** In the event a priest is unable to make decisions about his non-financial matters, including medical care, a substitute decision maker may be chosen to assist with these decisions.
- Definition:***
- A personal directive states a person's wishes about non-financial decisions, including medical care, when they can no longer make the decisions on their own.
- A personal directive includes the name of an "agent", a substitute decision maker, who has the authority to make these non-financial decisions.
- The personal directive is a legal document.
- Procedure:***
- a) The priest needs to share his feelings on life, illness, and death as well as his wishes about end of life care with the agent, and if appropriate, with other family members.
 - b) A lawyer can be, but is not required to be, involved in creating a personal directive.