**Living Wills**

     The term "living will" is a misnomer.  It is not a will.  It is a declaration that instructs physicians and others to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining procedures and equipment in the face of certain death.  The word "living" in "living will" refers to the fact that the declaration is made by the person while he or she is still alive and competent to make decisions regarding medical care.  Living wills are not recognized in Michigan by statute or under common law.  Nevertheless, because it may have some evidentiary value on determination of such issues, it is sometimes drafted as a separate document and incorporated by reference into the durable power of attorney for health care which is recognized by statute in Michigan.