## Frequently Asked Questions

#### Do I need to register my directive?

No, a properly signed and witnessed advance directive is a legal document, whether or not it is registered. Registering your document is a voluntary step you can take to ensure that your document is accessible when needed.

#### Will my information be secure and private?

The VADR is secure and your advance directive is confidential. Only those with a specific need to know, such as your health care providers, will have access to the VADR and your advance directive. You can give others access to view your documents by sharing the Registration ID number on your wallet card with them.

### How can I view my document online once I have registered?

To log in to the Vermont Advance Directive Registry (part of the U.S. Advance Care Plan Registry) with these credentials, go to www.usacpr.net and click "Log-In." Use the username and password provided in your initial confirmation packet to log in to your account. You will be able to view your documents on file and can make updates to your profile information.

### If I am in the hospital and cannot speak for myself, how will the hospital access my document?

All hospitals in Vermont are authorized users of the VADR. Vermont law requires hospitals to check the VADR for an advance directive document whenever a patient without the capacity to make decisions enters the hospital. The hospital can find your document using your wallet ID card or your name and date of birth.



# Advance Care Planning Is a Gift to You and Your Family

A sudden illness or accident can happen at any time.
Preparing minimizes conflict and uncertainty
about decisions that may arise.

Talk to your family, friends and health care providers about what matters most to you.



An advance care planning initiative by the Vermont Ethics Network. For more information, contact us at:

802.828.2909 www.TakingStepsVT.org



# The Vermont Advance Directive Registry

A guide for Vermonters on using Vermont's Advance Directive Registry

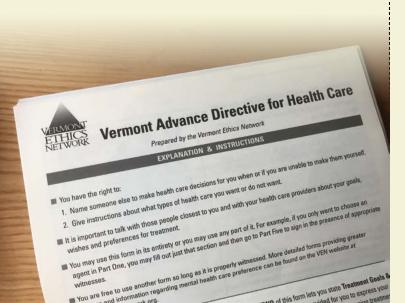


# What Is the Vermont Advance Directive Registry?

The <u>Vermont Advance Directive Registry</u> (VADR) is part of the national US Living Will Registry It is a free, secure, online database available to Vermont residents. They can submit copies of their completed advance directive documents to be accessed by authorized health care facilities and providers.

### **Benefits of registering your advance directive:**

- Immediate access to your document when it is most needed
- ▲ Can be accessed anywhere, not just in Vermont
- Annual reminders to trigger regular review
- Vermont hospitals are required to check the VADR when a patient arrives at the hospital and does not have the capacity to speak for themselves.



### **How Do I Register?**

- 1. Complete your advance directive form. It must be signed and properly witnessed.
- Complete the Required Information and sign in Document A of the <u>VADR Registration Agreement</u> <u>and Authorization to Change form</u> to allow authorized healthcare facilities and providers to access your document.
- 3. Send your signed VADR form and properly signed and witnessed advance directive to:

Vermont Advance Directive Registry 523 Westfield Ave / PO Box 2789 Westfield, NJ 07091-2789 Fax: 908-654-1919

OR Submit via email to:

VADRSubmissions@uslwr.com

Email Submissions must be in PDF format and include your full name and date of birth in the email text.

Keep the original of your completed advance directive in a safe place, easily found by your family and health care agent.

### How do I know my advance directive has been registered?

Within 10-15 days of submitting your advance directive to the Registry, you will receive a confirmation packet in the mail from the Vermont Advance Directive Registry which contains the following:

- A wallet ID card
- Your Registration ID number
- ▲ Log-in Information to access your account online
- Four Vermont Advance Directive Registry Stickers

You will also receive an annual letter or email from the VADR in the anniversary month of your registration. It is an excellent reminder to look at your advance directive and review your decisions.

### **How Do I Update My Registered Advance Directive?**

- 1. Complete a new advance directive. It must be properly signed and witnessed.
- Complete the Required Information and sign in Document B of the <u>VADR Registration Agreement</u> and Authorization to Change form to allow the VADR to update your document.
- Send your signed VADR form and a copy of your signed and witnessed advance directive to:
   Vermont Advance Directive Registry
   PO Box 2789, Westfield, NJ 07091-2789
   Fax: 908-654-1919

OR Submit via email to:

VADRSubmissions@uslwr.com
Email Submissions must be in PDF format and include your full name and date of birth in the email text.

Remember to give copies of your new advance directive to your health care agent, doctor, hospital, and any other friends/family members you choose.

### Can I update Emergency Contact information without completing a new advance directive?

Yes. You can update your emergency contact information, home address and phone number directly by logging in to your online account and selecting "View/Confirm/Update My Information". This will not change your appointed health care agent. You can also call the Registry at 1-888-548-9455 or send an email to <a href="mailtosupport@uslwr.com">support@uslwr.com</a> with your desired updates