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COVID-19 IF I NEED A RESPIRATOR

For people who already have a living will in place, does it apply if all they need a respirator due to Covid-19?

Even though a person has a living will doctors will not withhold and withdraw life support unless they medically believe the person is in one of the three conditions. Those include end stage, terminal and persistent vegetative state. In all cases the person must be in one of those conditions with no medical probability of recovery.

In the case of Covid-19 some people recover after having the help of a respirator while others do not. This makes it possible that a physician would use a respirator unless the doctor believes there is no medical probability of recovery.

During this unprecedented pandemic, nothing is clear. Doctors are struggling with daily, even hourly updates to help them understand how to proceed. We've heard many times that we are moving forward with the information we receive. Understanding when and how to enact a living will is a part of this rolling out.

Two things are important at this time. First, that you have health care directives such as a health care surrogate and living will, in place now. And second, that you communicate your wishes to those you named as your agents. If you believe you would never want to be intubated, even if you had Covid-19, make sure your agent understands that. On the other hand, if you believe you would want the help of a respirator during this crisis, then make that clear to your agent.

If you would like to better understand the process of having a ventilator
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/04/opinion/coronavirus-ventilators.html> Check here.

The Attorneys at HKH Elder Law are here to help you. To discuss your health care directives
<https://www.hkhelderlaw.com/contact-us/> **please contact us** for an appointment.