

## *Important Donation Facts*

- Organ donation information provided through the Ohio Donor Registry can be accessed and used only by authorized organ, tissue and eye recovery agencies in Ohio.
- Your status as an organ donor is considered only after every effort has been made to save your life and you have been declared legally dead.
- The recovery of organs and tissue is a surgical procedure that ensures the donor's body is treated with dignity and respect.
- An open casket is still possible.
- All costs associated with organ and tissue donation are paid for by the organ procurement organization.
- You can change your mind or refine your intent at any time, but only by completing a new Donor Registry Enrollment Form.
- If you are under 18 years of age and wish to be a registered donor, one of the witnesses on your Donor Registry Enrollment Form must be your parent or legal guardian.
- Organ donation is an anonymous process that ensures your gifts will go to the person who needs it most.

Dear Fellow Ohioans:

End-of-life issues are often the most difficult to discuss. However, planning ahead can make the most difficult situation a bit more manageable for your loved ones.

Inside, you will see how you can record advance directives in your Living Will to provide medical professionals and your family access to these important documents.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (614) 525-3930 if you have any questions or would like further information about recording your advance directives.

Sincerely,

Daphne Hawk  
Franklin County  
Recorder

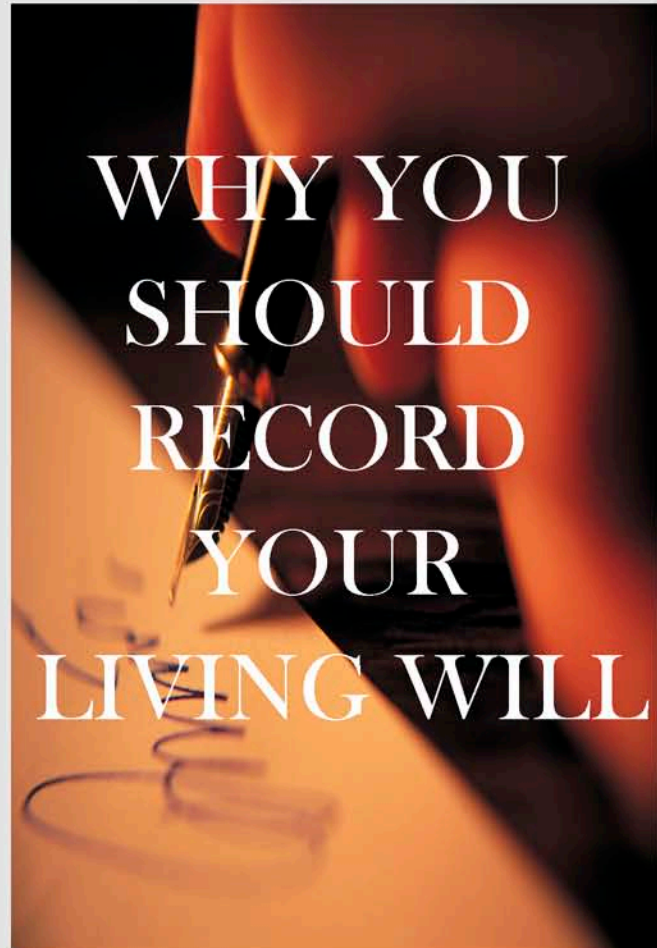


### *For more information*

Please contact  
Franklin County Recorder  
**Daphne Hawk's Office**  
At (614) 525-3930

[www.franklincountyohio.gov/recorder](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/recorder)

DAPHNE  
**HAWK**  
FRANKLIN COUNTY RECORDER



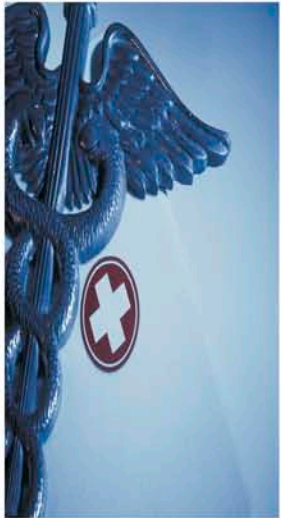
373 South High Street, 18th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215-6307  
614-525-3930

## *What is a Living Will?*

Since 1991, Ohio Law has allowed residents to establish a “Living Will” to assist them and their loved ones in making difficult end-of-life decisions.

A Living Will is a legal document that dictates how much life-sustaining treatment an individual wishes to have administered once he or she has been deemed by physicians to be terminally ill or permanently unconscious, and unable to communicate his or her wishes.

## *Why Permanent Access to Your Living Will is Important*



A Living Will *can only be honored if the attending physician and others know about it.* The Living Will takes effect only in situations where a patient is either terminally ill or permanently unconscious and is

unable to tell a physician what type of care he or she wishes to receive. It is best to make sure that loved ones, physicians and others have access to the document at all times.

## *Health Care Power of Attorney*

Also included in the Franklin County Recorder’s Advance Directives Packet is an Ohio Health Care Power of Attorney form. A Health Care Power of Attorney is a document that allows you to name a person to act on your behalf to make health care decisions for you if you become unable to make them for yourself.

## *Ohio’s Donor Registry*

Thousands of Ohioans are waiting for organ transplants. As an organ donor, one person can save up to seven lives and enhance the quality of life for more than 50 others through tissue and eye donation.

If you decide to become an organ and tissue donor, you can ensure your wishes will be carried out by filling out a donor Registry Enrollment Form with the **Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.**

This form is included in the Franklin County Recorder Advance Directives Packet for your convenience.

## *How Can We Help?*

The Franklin County Recorder’s Office will record the Living Will of any Ohioan for safekeeping. By recording your Living Will with the Franklin County Recorder, you ensure easy access to this important document by your loved ones and medical personnel.

