



Robert W. Shaw - Attorney At Law

146 Davis Avenue
White Plains, NY 10605
(914) 328-1222

Formerly, medical facilities could determine a patient's dying care wishes by following the directives of documents known as Health Care Proxies or Living Wills.

It seems that many are unaware of a bill, signed into law in 2010, called the Family Health Care Decision Act. How surprising that a law so important regarding how we die, should be so little known, compared to the constant blitz surrounding laws on how we live. It is only when a controversial family situation arises over who decides on when the "plug should be pulled" that we begin to argue over this all-important subject.

There has always been debate around this topic. Now, perhaps, most of these questions have been answered. This new Law addresses the question of who makes decisions for an incapacitated patient when no Proxy or Living Will exists. The order of decision makers, unless there is a court-appointed Guardian, made clear in the new Law, is now as follows: Spouses, Domestic Partners, Adult Children, Parent, Siblings, and Close Friends.

The Law covers who will be the decision maker for life-sustaining, or life-ending, treatment for patients who are unable to make their wishes known.

Robert W. Shaw, Esq., Elder Law Attorney

Robert W. Shaw, Esq.

146 Davis Avenue

White Plains, New York 10605

914.328.1222 - Office

914.686.3820 - Fax

914.414.6590 - Cell

robertwshaw@hotmail.com

www.robertwshaw.com