

## **“End of Life” Documents**

### **Why do we need legal documents when planning for “End of Life”?**

- Allows you to name someone to make decisions before incapacitation and/or death regarding assets and health

### **What documents are needed?**

#### Durable Power of Attorney

- **Purpose**
  - A document that authorizes a primary and alternate person to act in a broad range of legal, financial and business matters and remains in effect even if one is incapacitated

#### Health Care Surrogate

- **Purpose**
  - A document that authorizes a primary and alternate person to become your substitute decision-maker upon incapacitation and gives legal authority to speak to doctors, manage your medical care, access medical information and make medical decisions for you if you cannot do so
    - Cognitive Impairment (i.e. Alzheimer’s, dementia, etc.)
    - Mental Illness (i.e. bipolar, schizophrenia)
    - Intellectual and developmental disabilities
    - Unconsciousness (i.e. surgery, anesthesia)

#### Living Will Document/Advanced Directive

- **Purpose**
  - A document where you officially state your wishes to NOT be kept alive by artificial means (i.e. being hooked up to machines) if you are in a vegetative state or similar condition, a/k/a the “pull the plug” document

### **What other document might be needed?**

#### DNR

- **Purpose**
  - A document where you let medical professionals know that you do not want to be resuscitated (no CPR measures) if you suddenly go into cardiac arrest or stop breathing
  - Different than a living will
  - Only for extremely advanced age

### **What else may be needed to complete my estate planning?**

#### Last Wills and Testament

- A document created during your lifetime that allows you to express your wishes clearly and precisely and direct how your assets will pass and to whom and provide guardianship for minors

#### Revocable Living Trusts

- A document created during your lifetime that is very similar to a Last Will and Testament and whose main purpose is to avoid probate

#### Ladybird Deeds

- A document specific to Florida that is created during your lifetime and allows a beneficiary to receive your real estate directly upon your death and avoid probate, but also gives you the right to complete use and control of the property during your lifetime