

When You Or Your Family Want Life-Sustaining Treatments Done, But Your Doctor Wants To Stop Them

At this time, you and your doctor do not agree about treatments to keep you or your loved one alive (life-sustaining treatments). You have asked your doctor to start or keep on with treatments that will help keep you or your loved one alive. Your doctor does not think these treatments should be done. This page tells you about your rights under the Texas law when you and your doctor do not agree about such treatments.

When you or your loved one have an 'advance directive' or you have asked your doctor to start or keep on with treatments to keep you or your loved one alive, and your doctor wants to stop the treatments, then a hospital ethics committee will meet to talk about this. Until the committee meets, the treatments to keep you or your loved one alive will be done. We will **always** give treatments for pain and to keep the patient comfortable.

We will tell you at least 2 days before the hospital ethics committee meets. It is best if you or a family member can come to the meeting. If you want, the meeting can be held sooner.

During the meeting, we will try to find a way to handle things that you and your doctor can both agree on. If this does not happen, we will help you try to find another doctor or place that is willing to do what you have asked.

The Texas Health Care Information Council keeps a list of places that you or your loved one may be able to move to. It also keeps a list of groups that may help you find a place you or your loved one can move to. We will give you that list. You can call or get in touch with the people on this list, or find others, and set up a move to another place. You or your loved one must pay for this move.

After the committee has met, they will give you a written copy of what was talked about.

For 10 days from the time you are given the written copy of what was talked about, you or your loved one will keep on getting the treatments that are needed to stay alive. During this time you should try to find a place to move to. If you think that it may take just a few more days to find a place, you can ask the district or county

court for an order to have your doctor keep on with the treatments for a little bit longer.

After 10 days from the time you are given the written copy of what was talked about in the ethics committee meeting, the law lets your doctor stop the treatments that are needed to stay alive. If there is an order from a court, the treatments may go on for as long as the order says.

Here at Parkland, we want to do what is best for the people we take care of. We hope that we can all work together to find a way to do this.

Here are some words you may need to know:

Life-sustaining treatment means treatment that you must have to live. Medicines and equipment (artificial life support such as breathing machines, kidney dialysis treatment and stomach tubes) are examples of life-sustaining treatments.

Attending physician means the doctor in charge of the patient's care. This doctor has at least 3 – 5 years of special training after medical school (internship and residency).

Advance directive is a person's legal paper that says what kind of medical treatment the person wants if the person is not able to say so.