What I Should Do With My **Living Will** and Health Care Power Of Attorney

Once you have signed these documents, there are a few steps to take to be sure your wishes are carried out by your doctors, family, and loved ones.

Check these off as you complete them:

_____ Send a copy to your doctor. Be sure to include a cover letter with your address, Social Security number, date of birth, and phone number.

_____ Discuss the Living Will with your doctor(s). It is important to communicate to your doctor directly that you wish the contents of your Living Will to be followed, so be sure to do so at your next opportunity.

_____ Send a copy to the department of records at the hospital that you use and/or the hospital that you would go to if you need care. Be sure to include a cover letter with your address, Social Security number, date of birth, and phone number.

_____ Give a copy to your health care agent if you have one. This is the person you named in your Health Care Power of Attorney if you have executed that document.

_____ Give copies to your family and loved ones. You might also want to give a copy to your minister.

_____ Keep the original document in a safe and easily accessible place at all times. You should make an extra copy for yourself as well, in case you lose your original or it is accidentally destroyed or damaged.

_____ Bring a copy of your Living Will and Health Care Power of Attorney with you if you are admitted to a hospital.