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HOUSTON ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY CENTER ADVANCED DIRECTIVE POLICY

All patients have the right to participate in their own health care decisions, to make advance directives or to execute powers of attorney. These documents may authorize others to make decisions on their behalf based on the patient's expressed wishes when the patient is unable to make decisions or unable to communicate decisions. Houston Orthopedic Surgery Center respects and upholds those rights.

The existence of an advance directive, or lack thereof, will not determine access to care, treatment, or services at Houston Orthopedic Surgery Center.

Houston Orthopedic Surgery Center, unlike in an acute care facility, does not routinely perform "high risk" procedures. Most procedures performed in this facility are considered to be of minimal risk. Of course, no surgery is without risk. You will discuss the specifics of your procedure with your physician. He can answer your questions as to risks, expected recovery and post-operative care.

To the degree permitted under Georgia State Law it is our policy to honor and respect your advance directive to the extent possible. However, it is our policy, regardless of the contents of any advance directive or instructions from a health care surrogate or attorney in fact, that if an adverse event occurs during your treatment at this facility we will always initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and transfer you to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. At the acute care hospital further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures already begun will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, advance directive or health care power of attorney. Your agreement with this policy by your signature below does not revoke or invalidate any current health care directive or health care power of attorney.

If you do not agree with this policy, please call 478-971-2252 and we will assist you in scheduling a conference with your physician or with making other arrangements.

O.C.G.A. § 31-32-8 (2012)

§ 31-32-8. Duties and responsibilities of health care providers

Each health care provider and each other person with whom a health care agent interacts under an advance directive for health care shall be subject to the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) It is the responsibility of the health care agent or declarant to notify the health care provider of the existence of the advance directive for health care and any amendment or revocation thereof. A health care provider furnished with a copy of an advance directive for health care shall make such copy a part of the declarant's medical records and shall enter in the records any change in or termination of the advance directive for health care by the declarant that becomes known to the health care provider. A health care provider shall grant a health care agent adequate access to a declarant when a declarant is admitted to any health care facility. Whenever a health care provider believes a declarant is unable to understand the general nature of the health care procedure which the provider deems necessary, the health care provider shall consult with any available health care agent known to the health care provider who then has power to act for the declarant under an advance directive for health care;

(2) A health care decision made by a health care agent in accordance with the terms of an advance directive for health care shall be complied with by every health care provider to whom the decision is communicated, subject to the health care provider's right to administer treatment for the declarant's comfort or alleviation of pain; provided, however, that if the health care provider is unwilling to comply with the health care agent's decision, the health care provider shall promptly inform the health care agent who shall then be responsible for arranging for the declarant's transfer to another health care provider. A health care provider who is unwilling to comply with the health care agent's decision shall provide reasonably necessary consultation and care in connection with the pending transfer;

(3) At the declarant's expense and subject to reasonable rules of the health care provider to prevent disruption of the declarant's health care, each health care provider shall give a health care agent authorized to receive such information under an advance directive for health care the same right the declarant has to examine and copy any part or all of the declarant's medical records that the health care agent deems relevant to the exercise of the health care agent's powers, whether the records relate to mental health or any other medical condition and whether they are in the possession of or maintained by any physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, health care facility, or other health care provider, notwithstanding the provisions of any statute or rule of law to the contrary.