

PROMOTING PREPAREDNESS - Step 2

Preparing Wills, Living Wills and Powers of Attorney

It is generally recognized that nearly **every adult person should have a will**, however most people put off preparing one until late in life. Many are uncertain about how to go about it or are reluctant to visit a lawyer. But if a person doesn't leave a will, the state writes one for them should that person die. However the state's version will deal only with the distribution of money, property, and personal possessions and probably won't reflect the person's true personal wishes. Furthermore, it is a shame for anyone to miss the opportunity to have the final words in life concerning their desires should they die.

A Living Will, also known as a Health Care Power of Attorney or one of several other names, has a totally different purpose. It applies while the person is living and instructs physicians if the person wants them to withhold life-sustaining procedures in certain situations or names another person, known as an agent, to make medical decisions for them should the person become incapacitated.

A Durable Power of Attorney is also effective only during the person's lifetime or until revoked, and appoints an agent to conduct specified personal and financial affairs should the person become incapacitated.

Although **incapacitation** is a possibility for a person of any age, those retirees who are in their 60s or older face a higher probability of it happening due to diseases that reduce their mental capacities as age advances. Married couples can be appointed agents for each other, but they must also face the possibility that both of them could become incapacitated and therefore unable to act on behalf of their spouse. Therefore it might be appropriate for them name **alternate agents**, both in their Living Will and their Durable Power of Attorney. There are provisions available in these documents for them to do so.

Members of Florida MOAA Chapters are indeed fortunate that JAG offices are available at several military installations with legal services available to both active and retired military personnel and their spouses. Usually, these services include the preparation of simple wills (for estates less than \$1 million), medical directives, health care surrogates and durable powers of attorney. The Personal Affairs Committee of FCOC hopes that any MOAA member who does not have a current Will, Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney will take action ASAP to insure that this aspect of their personal affairs is in order.

Legal Assistance Locations List

MacDill Air Force Base
8208 Hanger Loop Dr.
MacDill, AFB, FL 33621
813-828-4421 or 813-828-4422
-By Appointment only, call to schedule appointment

Naval Air Station, Jacksonville
P.O. Box 107, Building 4
Jacksonville, FL
904-542-2565
Walk in Appointments Available, Mon-Thur.
from 0800-1630

Eglin Air Force Base
501 West Van Matre Ave
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5487
Phone 850-8822-4611
Appointments only, Mon & Thurs from 1300-1500, Fri from 0800-1000

Patrick Air Force Base
642 O'Malley Road
Patrick AFB, FL 32935
321-494-7357
Walk in Appointments Available, Wed & Thurs. from 0800-1000

Homestead Air Reserve Base
29050 Coral Sea Blvd., Building 360
Homestead ARS, FL 33039-1299
305-224-7063 Legal Assistance office
305-224-7580 Retiree Activity office
*Recommends retirees contact activity office for intake. Retiree office will then schedule the appointment.

Tyndall Air Force Base
Building 662, Base Support Center
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403
850-283-4681
Mondays from 0800-0900 sign in for a "walk in" appointment. Wednesdays From 0200-0300 sign in for a "walk-in" appointment