

## **Advice on Living Wills**

The issue of living wills and advanced statements has been brought to our attention recently. In light of this we would like to highlight the information sheet on this subject, published by Age Concern England in October 2007 and still current.

**Age Concern Information Sheet 5 Advance decisions, advance statements and living wills.** Here's the link to the website:

<http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/is5.asp>

The information sheet sets the issue properly in the context of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. It speaks about the people that would need to know about any of these documents.

**It is not necessary for anyone to pay anyone to keep a record of any of these documents.**

We see no benefit in offers to put details of any of these documents on a database run by unregulated commercial organisations. We are concerned about the risk to older people from unregulated commercial organisations holding this type of information. It would not be appropriate even for local Age Concern organisations to hold such sensitive data.

We recommend that people enquiring about this issue be offered the Age Concern Information Sheet 5. In this, enquirers will find details of the Office of the Public Guardian and other official bodies.

We feel confident that Age Concern organisations will avoid any attempts by commercial organisations to gain endorsement for their activities in this area.

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