



A LIVING WILL, WHAT IS IT AND HOW TO REGISTER IT

WHAT IS A LIVING WILL?

A living will is a legally binding document where you specify the treatments you accept and refuse as well as certain basic aspects of your wishes for when you die. This document will be used at a time when you are no longer able to express your wishes due to the deterioration of your health. One of the options that can be included in a living will is a request for an assisted death (euthanasia) which was approved in Spain in 2021.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR LIVING WILL¹

1. Download the template that is most suited to your needs, print it off and fill it in (the form needs to be in Spanish, but we have also included English translations to help you fill in the Spanish forms).
2. You may, if you wish, appoint two representatives, they will have the role of ensuring the medical team comply with your wishes. It must be someone you trust and preferably younger than you. In this case fill in forms 1 or 2.
3. Download and fill in the request to register your living will or modify/substitute your existing living will (forms 5 or 6).
4. Once the paperwork is ready, you can take it all to your [local office](#) (appointment is needed by calling 900701130). If you take it yourself, you can sign it there, without witnesses, in which case you need to fill in forms 1 or 4. If a representative takes it, you will need to have signed the documents in front of 3 witnesses who have no familial or business relationship with you (in this case fill in form (2 or 3). You will also need to sign an authorization form and the person presenting the paperwork must take the original ID (TIE; NIE and Passport or DNI) of all three witnesses as well as your own.

¹ Regulations regarding living wills vary in the different regions of Spain, these instructions are valid for the Balearic Islands, where a living will is known as Voluntades Anticipadas.

While it is highly recommended that you register your living will to ensure your wishes are met, **in case of an emergency**, it is enough to sign the document in front of three witnesses, as described above (forms 2 or 3). The document has the same validity but you must make sure someone you trust can present it to your medical team when needed.

Another option is to sign your living will in front of a notary, this does have a cost and you may still need to register it yourself, check this with the notary at the time of signing. In this case there will be no need for witnesses so you can fill in forms 1 or 4.

As these are very personal and delicate issues, make sure you reflect carefully before making any decision. This is your living will and must reflect your wishes and decisions.

These instructions are for the Balears, if you move somewhere else in Spain or back to the UK your living will may no longer be valid, you would need to register a new one following the procedures in place in your new location.

If you have any questions or need help filling out the forms or arranging for them to be registered, contact us on info@cancersupportmallorca.com