Advance Directives for Health Care in Kansas

Advance directives are legal documents that allow you to state, in writing, your wishes for end-of-life care. This is important in case you are not able to tell people what you want because of sickness or injury. Family, friends, and health care professionals can use advance directives to honor your wishes in case of terminal illness or an emergency.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care
A Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care allows you to appoint someone else to make medical treatment decisions for you. It is usually made effective when you are not capable of making decisions yourself.

Living Will
A living will allows you to set out, in writing, what type of care you want should you have a terminal illness. The living will is basically an instruction list to your family, friends, and health care providers. You specifically outline what type of care you want in certain situations.

Do Not Resuscitate Directive (DNR)
A DNR allows you to communicate, in advance, your desire to not be revived, should you stop breathing or your heart stops beating (typically for those who are frail or elderly).

For more information, visit www.aging.ksu.edu

Legal Disclaimer
The publications described are designed to acquaint readers with certain legal information about end-of-life issues. They are not intended as a substitute for legal advice, or tell everything one needs to know about end-of-life issues. For specific questions, seek professional advice. A listing of attorneys by state is available through state bar associations, listed at http://www.abanet.org/barserv/stlobar.html.