

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
RESOLUTION**

**LIVING WILLS**

1988

Whereas Judaism respects the sanctity of human life;

Whereas Judaism acknowledges by tradition and ritual that death is a part of life in a natural order of the universe, and is as much a reality as birth, maturation, and old age;

Whereas a living will may enable the (previous) decision by an adult of sound mind to accept or reject medical treatment in the face of certain death will be respected; and

Whereas a living will may relieve the patient's family and physician of the burden of deciding to withhold or withdraw medical treatment that cannot cure or reverse the terminal condition of the patient,

Therefore, be it resolved that,

The members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association support the principle of a living will and will educate their communities in the legal, family and religious implications of such a will, and will be supportive of individual choices with regard to such wills; and

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association advocates passage of living will provisions where not currently allowed by law.