

Living wills let family know person's wishes



abigail van buren

• dear abby

DEAR READERS: In light of recent events, many of you have requested that I reprint something regarding living wills, a subject that has appeared in this column since the early 1970s. Because this subject is both important and timely, I am doing so — with additional comments. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: No one wakes up in the morning planning to have an accident, a heart attack or some other

life-threatening condition. All too often doctors and nurses are faced with a family divided on what they “think” our patient would want (or not want). Combine this with the shock and grief these people are experiencing, and the situation becomes volatile. People should complete a living will before they need one. — FORMER SURGICAL NURSE, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

DEAR FORMER NURSE: Thank

you for speaking from the perspective of someone who has been in the trenches and seen firsthand how important it is to make one's wishes clearly understood.

DEAR ABBY: I saw my handsome, 6-foot, 200-pound father waste away to an 88-pound skeleton after fighting a two-year battle with cancer. The doctors told us it was hopeless, yet they kept that poor dear man alive month after month with transfusions, tubes, needles and drugs, while he prayed to God to take him.

Abby, you would do millions of readers a priceless service by acquainting them with the living will. —GRATEFUL IN JOLIET, ILL.

DEAR READERS: By now, the

importance of having an advance directive — or living will — should be apparent to everyone. Contrary to what many people may believe, this is not just a document for old people. A living will is simply a document that instructs your physician, lawyer, clergyman, family members — even a few trusted friends — what your wishes are if there is no hope for your recovery and you are unable to speak for yourself.

I have a living will, and I hope that the people who love me will respect it. Mine states that if there is no hope for my recovery and all hope for life is gone, or I lose my sense of reason, I do not wish to be kept alive by artificial means.

If any of you disagree with this philosophy, you should put your own feelings clearly in writing, too.

For information about advanced directives or living wills, consult your physician, your legal adviser, or visit www.compassionandchoices.org. Click at the bottom of the Web page where it says “Information about advance directives.”

Anyone with problems having an advance directive honored should contact the Compassion and Choices support staff toll-free at 1-800-247-7421. This group will advocate for honoring your advance directive, including legal action if necessary. Its services are free, and are supported entirely by donations and member-

ships.

DEAR ABBY: Please settle a question about wedding etiquette for me. My friend feels it is the guests' responsibility to “seek out” the bride to congratulate her at the reception.

I have been married 12 years, and I remember that one of the important things I had to do was to mingle with the guests and thank them for coming. Has this ritual changed since then? — SNUBBED IN CINCINNATI

DEAR SNUBBED: No, good manners have not changed. I don't know how large the wedding you attended was, but the bride should have visited each table to have personally thanked her guests. It's the gracious thing to do.

TUESDAY EVENING				E= Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone				APR. 12, 2005				
E	S		6 pm	6:30	7 pm	7:30	8 pm	8:30	9 pm	9:30	10 pm	10:30
36	53	A&E	Cold Case Files "Blood Money; Precious Doe"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Knieve's Wild Ride "New York City" (N)		Crossing Jordan "Sun-set Division" (N) (E)		Cold Case Files "Blood Money; Precious Doe"	
4	6	ABC	My Wife and Kids	George Lopez (N) (N)	According to Jim (N) (N)	Rodney (N) (N) (E)	Blind Justice "Seoul Man" (N) (N) (E) (DVS)		News (E)	(35) Night-line (E)	(06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) (N) (E)	
26	48	ANPL	Austin Stevens: Snake-master (E)		Animal X A blood-sucking monster attacks.		Miami Animal Police (E)		Austin Stevens: Snake-master (E)		Animal X A blood-sucking monster attacks.	
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (E)		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (E)		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (N) (E)		Showdog Moms & Dads		The West Wing "Manchester" (E)	
7	11	CBS	NCIS "Conspiracy Theory" (N) (N) (E)		The Amazing Race 7 (N) (E)		Judging Amy "Revolutions Per Minute" (N) (N)		News (N)	(35) Late Show With David Letterman (N) (E)	Late Late Show	
24	50	DISC	Deadliest Season: Alaskan Crab Fishing		Monster Garage "Ford Bronco/Rock Crawler"		American Chopper Race-car-themed bike.		Deadliest Catch Special (N)		Deadliest Catch Alaskan crab fisherman. (N)	
33	44	DISN	Braceface (E)	Kim Possible (E)	Lizzie McGuire (E)	Sister, Sister (N) (E)	That's So Raven (E)	That's So Raven (E)	★ ★ "Double Teamed" McElwain, Poppi Monroe.		(2002, Drama) Annie	
49	81	E!TV	Southern Stars		Southern Stars		Gastineau	Heir	Howard S.	Howard S.	Saturday Night Live (N)	
22	56	ESPN	ESPN's Bowling Night		Gridiron Stars		Baseball Tonight (E)		SportsCenter (Live) (E)		Outside	Baseball
54	57	ESPN2	High School Basketball		NBA Nation (Live) (E)				Gridiron Stars		Schwab	Schwab
32	46	FAM	★ ★ "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" (1993)		Who? (E)	Who? (E)	The 700 Club (E)		Ultimate Goals (N) (E)		Ultimate Goals (N) (E)	
59	-	FIT TV	Ultimate Goals (N) (E)		Ultimate Goals (N) (E)		Extremists	Extremists	Ultimate Goals (N) (E)		Ultimate Goals (N) (E)	
35	31	FMC	★ ★ "How to Steal a Million" (1966, Comedy)		Making the Connection		(05) ★ ★ ★ ★ "The French Connection" (1971)					
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live "Creole Cuisine" Creole recipes.		Roker on the Road	Roker on the Road	\$40-a-Day "Nashville"		Iron Chef Sea cucumber battle.		Emeril Live Cuban dishes.	
13	7	FOX	American Idol (Live) (N) (E)		House "Role Model" (N) (N) (PA) (E)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (E)		Bob Newhart	Bob Newhart	Mary Tyler Moore	Mary Tyler Moore
40	38	FX	King of Hill	Fear Factor (N) (E)	King of Hill	King of Hill	★ ★ "Bad Company" (2002) Anthony Hopkins. Premiere.					
30	55	FXSP	Sports List	Rockies	Pregame	MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Live)					Rocky Mt.	
5	14	HBO	(15) ★ ★ ★ "The Doctor" (1991) William Hurt. An emotionally cold doctor learns a lesson in compassion. (N) PG-13 (E)		★ ★ "Kangaroo Jack" (2003) Jerry O'Connell. (N) PG (E)		Deadwood "Something Very Expensive" (E)					
62	67	HGTV	Designed	Get Color	Decorating	Mission	House	Designers' Design	House	Designed	Get Color	
58	52	HIST	The Last Days of WWII "March 25-31" (E)		Band of Brothers (N) (E)		(20) Band of Brothers (N) (E)		(35) Mail Call (E)		The Last Days of WWII "March 25-31" (E)	
25	35	IND	Friends (N) (E)	Friends (N) (E)	Sex and the City (N) (E)	Sex and the City (N) (E)	(15) Friends (N) (E)	(45) Friends (N) (E)	(15) ★ ★ "Fools Rush In" (1997, Comedy) Matthew Perry, Salma Hayek. (E)			
18	63	LIFE	(5:00) "Odd Girl Out"		★ ★ ★ "Mr. Wonderful" (1993) Matt Dillon. (E)		Golden	Golden	The Nanny	The Nanny		
23	77	MTV	TRL (TV) (N) (E)		Damage	Bam	Direct Effect (E)		MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	Trippin' (N) (E)	Famous
3	9	NBC	News (E)	Ent. Tonight	Will & Grace (E)	Scrubs (N) (E)	Scrubs (N) (N) (E)	The Office (N) (N) (E)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Weak" (N) (E)		News (E)	Tonight Show
8	8	NBC	Will & Grace (E)	Scrubs (N) (E)	Scrubs (N) (N) (E)	The Office (N) (N) (E)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Weak" (N) (E)		News (E)	(35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) (E)		Late Night
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob	School	Full House	Fatherhood	Fresh Pr.	Cosby	Roseanne	Murphy	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.
2	2	PBS	Nova "Garden of Eden" (N) (DVS)		Colonial House "A New World" (N) (E) (DVS)		Frontline "Karl Rove: The Architect" (N) (E)		BBC World News	That's My Boy	Charlie Rose (N) (N) (E)	
38	83	SCI FI	(5:00) Dune (E)		Dune (E) (Part 2 of 3) (E)				Dune (E) (Part 3 of 3) (E)			
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure (N)		Wildest Police Videos		CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn		★ ★ "Road House"	
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out (E)		Clean Sweep House full of collectibles. (E)		In a Fix "Marital Awe" Fixing up a garage. (E)		American Hot Rod "42 Woodie 3" (E)		Overhaul'n	
28	37	TNT	Law & Order (E) (DVS)		Law & Order (E) (DVS)		Charmed (N) (E)		★ ★ "14 Hours" (2005) JoBeth Williams.			
51	86	TRAV	Taste	Taste	Made	Made	Hidden Yellowstone		Taste	Taste	Made	Made
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven (E)		Griffith	Leave	Sanford	All-Family	3's Co.	Farrah	Cheers (N) (E)	Cheers (N)
60	89	UNIV	Apuesta por un Amor		La Madrastra		Casos de la Vida Real		Impacto	Noticiero	La Hora Derbez	
20	34	USA	★ "Half Past Dead" (2002) Steven Seagal. (E)		Gilmore Girls "Wedding Bell Blues" (N) (E)		Nashville Star (E)		Law & Order: SVU		The Dead Zone (E)	
12	3	WB	Friends (N) (E)	Everybody-Raymond (E)			One Tree Hill (N) (E)		News (N) (E)		Friends (N) (E)	Will & Grace (E)
99	36	WGN	Columbo "Swan Song"				WGN News at Nine (E)		Becker (N) (E)	Becker (N) (E)	Home Delivery	

WEDNESDAY EVENING										E=Eagle Cable S=S&T Telephone										APR. 13, 2005									
E	S	6 pm		6:30	7 pm		7:30	8 pm		8:30	9 pm		9:30	10 pm		10:30													
36	53	A&E	American Justice "Accused in Appalachia" ∩			Death Detectives: The L.A. County Coroner			Airline ☒		Airline ☒		Crossing Jordan "Pandora's Trunk" ☒			American Justice "Accused in Appalachia" ∩													
4	6	ABC	Lost "Special" ∩ ☒			(:01) Alias "Pandora" (N) ∩ ☒			(:02) Eyes "Wings" (N) ∩ ☒		News ☒			(:35) Nightline ☒			(:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N) ∩ ☒												
26	48	ANPL	Animal Face-Off ☒			The Most Extreme Nasty animal behaviors.			Miami Animal Police "Gator Love Bite" ☒		Animal Face-Off ☒			The Most Extreme Nasty animal behaviors.															
63	54	BRAVO	Queer Eye for the Straight Guy ☒			Showdog Moms & Dads ☒			Showdog Moms & Dads (N) ☒		Queer Eye for the Straight Guy ☒			The West Wing "Ways and Means" (N) ∩ ☒															
7	11	CBS	60 Minutes Wednesday ∩ ☒			The King of Queens (N) ∩ ☒			Yes, Dear Queens (N) ∩ ☒		CSI: NY "Crimes & Misdemeanors" (N) ∩ ☒			News ∩			(:35) Late Show With David Letterman (N) ∩			Late Late Show									
24	50	DISC	Deadliest Season: Alaskan Crab Fishing			Monster Garage "Mini/Snowmobile" ☒			American Chopper "Firebike 2" ☒		It Takes a Thief "Like Mother, Like Daughter"			MythBusters "Beat the Radar Detector" ☒															
33	44	DISN	Braceface ☒			Kim Possible ☒			Lizzie McGuire ☒		Sister, That's So Raven ☒		★★ "The Thirteenth Year" (1999, Fantasy) Chez Starbuck, Justin Jon Ross. ☒																
49	81	E!TV	The Hilton Sisters: The E!			True Hollywood Story			Crazy Life		Gastineau		Howard S.			Howard S.			Saturday Night Live ∩										
22	56	ESPN	NBA Basketball New Jersey Nets at Indiana Pacers. ☒						NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Seattle Sonics. ☒																				
54	57	ESPN2	(5:30) MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.						MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Subject to Blackout) (Live) ☒																				
32	46	FAM	★★★ "Can't Buy Me Love" (1987, Comedy)						Whoose? ☒		Whoose? ☒		The 700 Club ☒			Videos			Videos										
59	-	FIT TV	Low Carb			Low Carb			Ultimate Goals ∩		Extremists		Extremists		Low Carb			Low Carb			Ultimate Goals ∩								
35	31	FMC	★★ "Zorro, the Gay Blade" (1981, Comedy)						★★ "Big Trouble in Little China" (1986)								"The Star Chamber"												
53	68	FOOD	Emeril Live Soup and stew recipes. (N)			BBQ With Bobby Flay			Foodnation		Good Eats		Good Eats		Iron Chef America "Batali vs. Trevino"			Emeril Live "Pennsylvania Dutch Cooking"											
13	7	FOX	Simple Life			Stacked "Pilot" ☒			American Idol ☒		Life on a Stick (N) ∩		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith ☒		Bob Newhart		Bob Newhart		Mary Tyler Moore			Mary Tyler Moore							
40	38	FX	(4:30) "Bad Company"			Fear Factor ∩ ☒			King of Hill		King of Hill		★★★ "Joy Ride" (2001, Suspense) Steve Zahn.																
30	55	FXSP	Sports List			Rockies			MLB Baseball Colorado Rockies at Arizona Diamondbacks.		Rocky Mt.		Sports List			Best Sports													
5	14	HBO	(5:30) ★★★ "Charlie's Angels: Throttle" (2003) Cameron Diaz.			★★★ "Home Alone 3" (1997, Comedy) Alex D. Linz. ∩ "PG" ☒			(:15) ★★ "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" (2002, Adventure) Freddie Prinze Jr. ∩ "PG" ☒																				
62	67	HGTV	Renovation			Weekend			Want That		Landscap		House		Curb		Design		House		Renovation			Weekend					
58	52	HIST	The Last Days of WWII "April 1-April 7"						Band of Brothers ∩ ☒		(:10) Band of Brothers ∩ ☒		Modern Marvels			The Last Days of WWII "April 1-April 7"													
25	35	IND	Everybody-Raymond			Everybody-Raymond			Seinfeld ∩ ☒		Seinfeld ∩ ☒		Sex and the City ∩		Sex and the City ∩		(:15) ★★★ "Unfaithful" (2002) Richard Gere. A housewife has an affair with a charming stranger.												
18	63	LIFE	"Wednesday Wm"			★★★ "The Soul Collector" (1999) Melissa Gilbert.			Golden		Golden		The Nanny			The Nanny													
23	77	MTV	TRL (TV) ∩ ☒			Band			Band		Direct Effect ∩		Challenge			Challenge			Bam			Barkers							
3	9	NBC	News ☒			Ent. To-night			Dateline NBC ∩ ☒		Revelations (N) ∩ (Part 1 of 6) ☒		Law & Order "Tombstone" (N) ∩ ☒			News ☒			Tonight Show										
8	8	NBC	Dateline NBC ∩ ☒			Revelations (N) ∩ (Part 1 of 6) ☒			Law & Order "Tombstone" (N) ∩ ☒		News			(:35) The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (N) ☒			Late Night												
34	43	NICK	SpongeBob			Unfabulous			Full House		Full House		Fresh Pr.		Cosby		Roseanne			Murphy			Fresh Pr.			Fresh Pr.			
2	2	PBS	Roadshow FYI			Scientific-Frontiers			★★★ "Prisoner of Paradise" (2002, Documentary) ∩ ☒		An Unlikely Friendship		BBC World News			Two's Company			Charlie Rose (N) ∩ ☒										
38	83	SCIFI	Ripley-Believe			Ripley-Believe			Ripley-Believe		Project Greenlight ☒			Ripley-Believe															
61	41	SPK	Maximum Exposure ∩			Wildest Police Videos			CSI: Crime Scn		CSI: Crime Scn			★★★ "Carlito's Way"															
39	51	TLC	While You Were Out			Displaying a collection.			Clean Sweep "Let It Go, Let It Go, Let It Go!"		In a Fix ☒			Clean Sweep Messy bedroom. ☒			In a Fix a playroom. (N)												
28	37	TNT	Law & Order ☒ (DVS)			★★★ "Executive Decision" (1996) Kurt Russell.			Halle Berry.		Law & Order ☒ (DVS)			The X-Files															
51	86	TRV	Las Vegas: What-Do			World Poker Tour (N)			Las Vegas: What-Do		World Poker Tour																		
21	82	TVLND	Highway to Heaven ☒			Griffith			Leave		Farrah			Farrah			3's Co.			3's Co.			Cheers ∩			Cheers ∩			
60	89	UNIV	Apuesta por un Amor			La Madrastra			Don Francisco Presenta		Impacto			Noticiero			La Hora Derbez												
12	3	USA	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU		Law Order: CI			Kojak ☒															
20	3	WB	Friends ∩ ☒			Everybody-Raymond			Smallville "Onyx" (N) ∩		Jack & Bobby "Friends With Benefits" (N) ∩			News ∩ ☒			Friends ∩			Will & Grace ☒									
99	36	WGN	Columbo "A Friend in Need"						WGN News at Nine ☒		Becker ∩			Becker ∩			Home Delivery												