

A Health Care Directive



Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you know about a health care directive?

Definitions:

- Nursing home – a place that cares for the elderly
- Coma – a state where one is not conscious
- Disease – illness
- Complete – to finish or bring to an end

Reading

Ruth's dad is in a nursing home. He is eighty years old and has heart disease.

16 He is in a coma and is dying. He can no longer make choices regarding his care.

33 Ruth is his **health care agent**. She makes choices about pain control for her
47 dad. Ruth's dad completed a health care directive about ten years ago, while he was
62 still healthy. The document states his wishes about health care.

72 Ruth has been thinking about her own health care. She says to her husband,
86 "I should do my health care directive. I want you and our family to know my wishes
103 about my medical care. I will talk with my doctor and get the form from him. I will
121 complete the form soon. Would you be my health care agent?"

132 "Yes," Keith replies. "I will be your agent. Let me know when you would
146 like to talk more about this. I should do one too."

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Understanding

1. Where is Ruth's dad? Why is he there? _____

2. What is a **health care agent**? _____

3. What form does Ruth want to complete? Why? _____

4. Where will Ruth get the form? _____

5. Who will be Ruth's health care agent? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: What do you think about a health care directive?
