

# Vanderbilt Hospital and Clinics

## Medical Decision-Making

- Patients have the right to designate a person of their choice as their health care agent
- For example, take Lisa and Janet, an unmarried same-sex couple
  - They may designate each other as health care agent through advance care directives



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It is important to note that health care agents are decided by the patient, just as they are able to define their own family at VUMC. Anyone, including an unmarried same-sex partner, can be the health care agent if the patient puts this request in writing through advance care directives.

Healthcare Decision-Making and Advance Directives Policy

Image taken from: <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/07/judge-indiana-must-list-lesbian-spouses-birth-certificate/>