

THE LIVING WILL LOCKBOX: AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR ESTATE PLANNERS

BY ROSS MILLER, NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE

The Living Will Lockbox, Nevada's advanced directive electronic registry, marks its fifth anniversary this year. Nevada's legal community has a significant impact on this free program, which is available to all Nevadans. Since its inception in 2008, nearly 6,500 registrants and 50 hospitals and medical groups have started using the Living Will Lockbox. Additionally, more than 50 law firms throughout the state have registered their clients' advance directives with the program. The Living Will Lockbox is an essential tool for estate planners; all elder law and estate planning attorneys should be aware of the Living Will Lockbox and share this free service with their clients.



The Living Will Lockbox offers free electronic storage for living wills, do-not-resuscitate orders (DNRs) and other advance directives for end-of-life or emergency care, in order to make those documents immediately available to health care providers. Registering with the Living Will Lockbox is very simple; by visiting www.livingwilllockbox.com, Nevadans, or their attorneys, can download registration forms and send them, along with the necessary advance directive documents, to the Nevada Secretary of State's Office to be filed with the Living Will Lockbox. Once registered, individuals will receive a wallet card with a password allowing them to access their advance directives. The Lockbox is only accessible to those designated by the registrant and all health care providers, as defined by Nevada Revised Statutes 629.031. Changes to the documents may be made at any time through a simple procedure similar to the registration process.

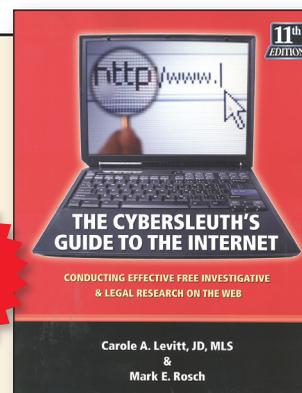
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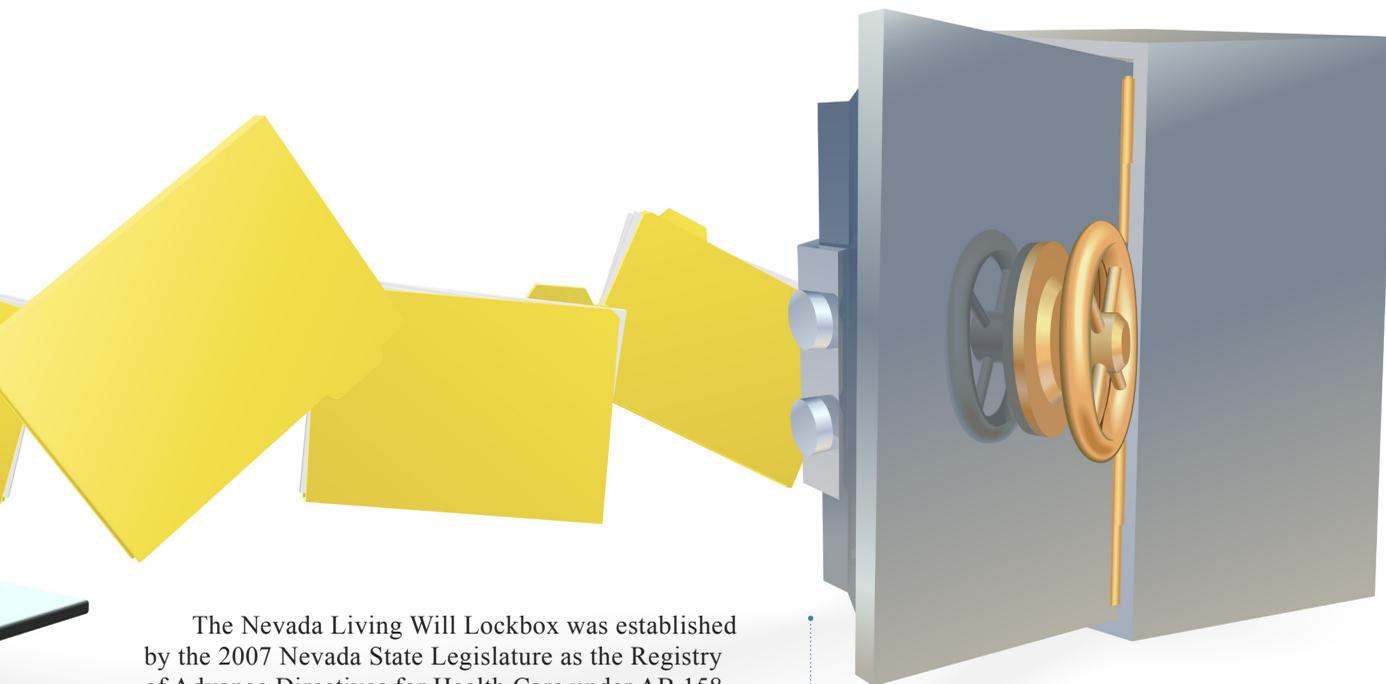
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The Nevada Living Will Lockbox was established by the 2007 Nevada State Legislature as the Registry of Advance Directives for Health Care under AB 158, sponsored by Assemblyman David Bobzien. The legislature provided funding to initiate the program, which is operated at no charge to the taxpayers of Nevada, through grants and sponsorships. Brochures and forms are available for download at www.livingwilllockbox.com. For more information or to ask questions regarding the Living Will Lockbox, visit www.livingwilllockbox.com or contact Adreane Freeman, program officer for the Living Will Lockbox, at (702) 486-2887. ■



SECRETARY OF STATE ROSS MILLER is in the middle of serving his second term. He holds a Master of Business Administration degree and a law degree from Loyola Marymount University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University.

Miller was unanimously selected by his peers to serve as President of the National Association of Secretaries of State for 2012-2013.