**Death Planning Checklist**

I REPEAT ONCE MORE: a good death doesn’t just happen - it takes planning and the completion of specific tasks. Following my checklist:

1. Last will and testament updated with a named executor
2. Meeting with mt executor for
   1. Access to financial records, both printed and computer files
   2. User IDs and passwords
   3. Lists of regular payments and sources of income
   4. Social security changes after my death
   5. Instructions for stopping supplemental insurance and long-term care payments
3. Living will and advance directives prepared
   1. Have “the conversation” with family members about end-of-life preferences (see page 152 references to the website <http://theconversationproject.org/> to prepare for ‘the conversation” with your family)
   2. Power of attorney for healthcare decisions (PAHCD) identified
   3. Advance directives discussed in detail with PAHCD and other family members
   4. Advance directives filed with
      1. PAHCD
      2. Hospital
      3. Doctor(s)
      4. Pastor
      5. Attorney
      6. Check with EMT if DNR is in place
4. Tidy up frayed personal relationships
   1. Clear old sources of conflict or misunderstandings
   2. Words of affirmation to family and friends
   3. Thanks to persons who contributed to me over my lifetime
   4. Cultivate a sense of gratitude for a life well lived
   5. Discuss with family or others unfinished projects
5. Psychological/spiritual preparation
   1. Family discussions
   2. Group for prayer and psychological support
6. Pass on specific items and mementos to family members and friends
7. Funeral plans and preferences
   1. Meet with funeral director
   2. Communicate with clergy, children, and executor
   3. Write an obituary
8. Prepare a list of people to notify about my death
   1. Friends and family
   2. Agencies such as Social Security and other financial agencies
9. Write an ethical will for my children and grandchildren
10. Write a letter to my doctor that summarizes my wishes for end-of-life care

***From Glen E. Miller’s Living Thoughtfully Dying Well: A Doctor Explains How to Make Death a Natural Part of Life***