

The Halachic Medical Directive

MEDICAL DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE AND DECLARATION

FOR USE IN COLORADO

The “Halachic Medical Directive” is designed to help ensure that all medical and post-death decisions made by others on your behalf will be made in accordance with Jewish law and custom (*halacha*). The text of this Halachic Medical Directive has been approved by attorneys for use in your state as of November, 2003. While we do not expect that any future change in federal or state laws would materially affect the validity of this document, you may wish to show it to your own attorney to confirm its effectiveness in subsequent years.

INSTRUCTIONS

(a) **Please print your name on the first line of the form.**

(b) **In Section 1, print the name, address, and telephone numbers of the person you wish to designate as your agent** to make medical decisions on your behalf if, G-d forbid, you ever become incapable of making them on your own. Be sure to include all numbers (including cell phone and pager) where your agent can be reached in the event of an emergency. If the contact information for your agent changes, you should provide that updated information to everyone whom you have provided with a copy of your Halachic Medical Directive.

You may also insert the name, address, and telephone numbers of an alternate agent to make such decisions if your main agent is unable, unwilling, or unavailable to make such decisions.

It is recommended that before appointing anyone to serve as your agent or alternate agent you should ascertain that person’s willingness to serve in such capacity. In addition, if you have made arrangements with a burial society (*Chevra Kadisha*), you may wish to advise your agents of such arrangements.

Note: *Colorado law allows virtually any competent adult* (an adult is a person 18 years of age or older) *to serve as an agent*. Thus, you may appoint as your agent (or alternate agent) your spouse, adult child, parent or other adult relative or non-relative.

(c) **In Section 3, please print the name, address, and telephone numbers of the Orthodox Rabbi whose guidance you want your agent to follow**, should any questions arise as to the requirements of *halacha*.

You should then print the name, address, and telephone numbers of the Orthodox Jewish institution or organization you want your agent to contact for a referral to another Orthodox Rabbi if the rabbi you have identified is unable, unwilling or unavailable to provide the appropriate consultation and guidance.

You are, of course, free to insert the name of any Orthodox Rabbi or institution/organization you would like, but before doing so it is advisable to discuss the matter with the rabbi or institution/organization to ascertain their competency and willingness to serve in such capacity. You may list Agudath Israel of America as the organization you select; however, we are only available to be contacted on regular business hours and days.

(d) **In Section 8, sign and print your name, address, phone numbers, and the date before two witnesses.** The two witnesses must be competent adults and neither one should be the person you have appointed as your agent (or alternate agent). In addition, neither witness should be a person who has a claim against your estate upon your death; a person who believes that he or she stands to inherit from your estate; your attending physician or

any other physician; an employee of your attending physician or health care facility in which you are a patient; or a patient in your treating health care facility. The witnesses may, however, be your relatives.

If you are physically unable to sign and date the form yourself, Colorado law allows another person to sign and date the form on your behalf, as long as he or she does so *at your direction and in your presence and meets the same requirements as your witnesses to the document.*

(e) In the DECLARATION OF WITNESSES Section, the date should be inserted in the declaration and the two witnesses should sign their names, attesting to the contents of the declaration, and print their addresses beneath their signature.

(f) It is recommended that you keep the original of this form among your valuable papers in a location that is readily accessible in the event of an emergency; and that you **distribute copies to the health care agent (and alternate agent)** you have designated in Section 1, **to the rabbi and institution/organization** you have designated in Section 3, as well as to **your doctors, your lawyer**, and anyone else who is likely to be contacted in times of emergency. We also recommend that you register a copy of this form with a national registry, so that it can be accessed by any health care facility via computer. Agudath Israel has made an arrangement with the New York Legal Assistance Group to register Halachic Medical Directives for our constituents with the U.S. Living Will Registry at no charge. To obtain the forms to enable you to do so, e-mail COdirective@agudathisrael.org or call our office (212-797-9000).

(g) If at any time you wish to revoke your Medical Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Declaration, you may do so orally, in writing, by destroying the document, or by executing a new one. To avoid possible confusion, it would be wise to try to obtain all originals and copies of the old Medical Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Declaration and destroy them. If you appoint your spouse as your agent (or alternate agent), a subsequent divorce or legal separation between you and your spouse will automatically revoke his or her appointment as your agent.

If you do not revoke your Medical Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Declaration, Colorado law provides that it remains in effect indefinitely. Obviously, if any of the persons whose names you have inserted in this form dies or becomes otherwise incapable of serving in the role you have assigned, it would be wise to execute a new Medical Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Declaration.

(h) It is recommended that you also complete the **Emergency Instructions Card**, and carry it with you in your wallet or purse.

(i) If, upon consultation with your rabbi, you would like to add to this standardized form any additional expression of your wishes with respect to medical and/or post-mortem decisions, you may do so by attaching a “rider” to the standardized form. If you choose to do so, or if you have any other questions concerning this form, please consult an attorney.

These instructions are not part of the Halachic Medical Directive and need not be kept attached to the executed document.

**MEDICAL DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR HEALTH CARE AND DECLARATION**

FOR USE IN COLORADO

I, _____, hereby declare as follows:

1. Appointment of Agent: In recognition of the fact that there may come a time when I will become unable to make my own health care decisions because of illness, injury or other circumstances, I hereby appoint

Agent Name of Agent: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____
Cell: _____ Pager/beeper: _____

as my health care agent to make any and all health care decisions for me, consistent with my wishes as set forth in this directive.

If the person named above is unable, unwilling or unavailable to act as my agent, I hereby appoint

Alternate Agent Name of Alternate Agent: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____
Cell: _____ Pager/beeper: _____

to serve in such capacity.

This appointment shall take effect in the event I become unable, because of illness, injury or other circumstances, to make my own health care decisions.

2. Jewish Law to Govern Health Care Decisions: I am Jewish. It is my desire, and I hereby direct, that all health care decisions made for me (whether made by my agent, a guardian appointed for me, or any other person) be made pursuant to Jewish law and custom as determined in accordance with strict Orthodox interpretation and tradition. Without limiting in any way the generality of the foregoing, it is my wish that Jewish law and custom should dictate the course of my health care with respect to such matters as the performance of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation if I suffer cardiac or respiratory arrest; the performance of life-sustaining surgical procedures and the initiation or maintenance of any particular course of life-sustaining

4. Direction to Health Care Providers: Any health care provider shall rely upon and carry out the decisions of my agent, and may assume that such decisions reflect my wishes and were arrived at in accordance with the procedures set forth in this directive, unless such health care provider shall have good cause to believe that my agent has not acted in good faith in accordance with my wishes as expressed in this directive.

If the persons designated in section 1 above as my agent and alternate agent are unable, unwilling or unavailable to serve in such capacity, it is my desire, and I hereby direct, that any health care provider or other person who will be making health care decisions on my behalf follow the procedures outlined in section 3 above in determining the requirements of Jewish law and custom.

Pending contact with the agent and/or Orthodox Rabbi described above, it is my desire, and I hereby direct, that all health care providers undertake all essential emergency and/or life sustaining measures on my behalf.

5. Access to Medical Records and Information; HIPAA: My agent is my personal representative, as such term is defined under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), and accordingly all of my protected health information (as such term is defined under HIPAA) and other medical records shall be made available to my agent upon request in the same manner as such information and records would be released and disclosed to me, and my agent shall have and may exercise all of the rights I would have regarding the use and disclosure of such information and records, as required under HIPAA.

6. Post-Mortem Decisions: It is also my desire, and I hereby direct, that after my death, all decisions concerning the handling and disposition of my body be made pursuant to Jewish law and custom as determined in accordance with strict Orthodox interpretation and tradition. For example, Jewish law generally requires expeditious burial and imposes special requirements with regard to the preparation of the body for burial. It is my wish that Jewish law and custom be followed with respect to these matters. I further direct that my agent be responsible for the disposition of my remains.

Further, subject to certain limited exceptions, Jewish law generally prohibits the performance of any autopsy or dissection. It is my wish that Jewish law and custom be followed with respect to such procedures, and with respect to all other post-mortem matters including the removal and usage of any of my body organs or tissue for transplantation or any other purposes. I direct that any health care provider in attendance at my death notify the agent and/or Orthodox Rabbi described above immediately upon my death, in addition to any other person whose consent by law must be solicited and obtained, prior to the use of any part of my body as an anatomical gift, so that appropriate decisions and arrangements can be made in accordance with my wishes. Pending such notification, and unless there is specific authorization by the Orthodox Rabbi consulted in accordance with the procedures outlined in paragraph 3 above, it is my desire, and I hereby direct, that no post-mortem procedure be performed on my body.

7. Incontrovertible Evidence of My Wishes: If, for any reason, this document is deemed not legally effective as a durable power of attorney for health care or advance medical directive, or if the persons designated in section 1 above as my agent and alternate agent are unable, unwilling or unavailable to serve in such capacity, I declare to my family, my doctor and anyone else whom it may concern that the wishes I have expressed herein with regard to compliance with Jewish law and custom should be treated as incontrovertible evidence of my intent and desire with respect to all health care measures and post-mortem procedures; and that it is my wish that the procedure outlined in section 3 above should be followed in determining the requirements of Jewish law and custom.

8. Duration and Revocation: It is my understanding and intention that unless I revoke this power of attorney and directive, it will remain in effect indefinitely. My signature on this document shall be deemed to constitute a revocation of any prior health care power of attorney, directive or other similar document I may have executed prior to today's date.

My Signature Signature: _____

(If you are not physically capable of signing, please ask another person to sign your name on your behalf.)

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Day: _____

Evening: _____

DECLARATION OF WITNESSES

I, on this _____ day of _____, 20__, declare that the person who signed (or asked another to sign) this document is personally known to me, that he/she signed (or asked another to sign for him/her) this document in my presence (and that person signed in my presence), and that he/she appeared to be of sound mind and under no constraint or undue influence. I am not the person appointed as agent by this document, nor am I the health care provider of the person who signed (or asked another to sign) this document, or an employee of such person's health care provider.

Witnesses WITNESS 1

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Residing at: _____

WITNESS 2:

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Residing at: _____