

THE NASCK EMES CARD

What is the EMES Wallet Card?

Designed by the National Association of Chevra Kadisha, the EMES Card attaches to your license or ID in a special sleeve.

The EMES Card:

- Indicates that you have a Halachic Living Will.
- Contains the contact information of your agent(s) and rabbi.
- It lists your US Registry ID Number, if you chose to register your Living Will.
- Designates your agent to make post-mortem decisions.
- States your opposition to autopsy and

The EMES Card complements the Halachic Living Will, but is not a substitute for it.

ATTACHED TO YOUR LICENSE OR ID



THIS CARD WILL BE FOUND AT A TIME OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY

If I choose to be an organ donor, can I still use this card?

Yes. The card makes it clear that you are opposed to any dissection unless directed otherwise in a written instrument, such as an organ donor card or your license.

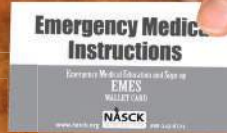


Important Points to Remember

- It is necessary to **inform your agent(s) and rabbi** of your intention to name them and ascertain they are willing to act as such.
- **If you have specific wishes** regarding your medical care, inform your agent(s) and rabbi, as that may impact the Halachic determinations in specific situations.
- It is recommended to **consult with a lawyer** to confirm that the form you chose conforms to your state laws and addresses your individual needs.
- **Give copies** of your Halachic Medical Directive to your proxy, rabbi, attorney, family members, etc.
- **Encourage your family members and acquaintances**, regardless of their level of observance, to have an Advance Medical Directive and EMES Card. Use these forms as a way to discuss the importance of traditional end-of-life decisions with those that may be considering other plans.

Visit our website at www.nasck.org
 to view a documentary entitled
"Awareness & Preparation,"
 to download additional copies of all the
 forms, to order EMES Cards and to learn
 more about the issues involved.

NASCK



Emergency Medical Education and Sign-up CARD PROGRAM

Issues of Concern

- **If you are over 18**, and unable to communicate your wishes in a medical emergency situation, heaven forbid, **who would you want to make your health care decisions for you?**
- Will that person know the *Halachos*, or **which rabbi** you would want them to ask?
- Without the proper forms, **even a spouse or family members** may not have the legal authority to override medical professionals.
- At a time of medical emergency, **how will these essential forms be found?**
- **If your relative or acquaintance wishes to be cremated**, how would you know? If after discussion and intervention, they agree to a traditional Jewish burial, how will their children and family know? **Is it in writing?**

THE NASCK EMES CARD CAMPAIGN DEALS WITH ALL OF THESE CONCERNS



This nationwide project is sponsored by
National Association of Chevra Kadisha
 (718) 847-6280 info@nasck.org
www.NASCK.org

Changing laws and varied family structures make it imperative for every Jewish adult to designate a Health Care Proxy.

Why are these forms necessary?

When a person is unable to make their own decisions pertaining to their medical care, the medical establishment will encourage their own views and may enforce their own decisions about what should be done. **Without being designated, your family members have limited authority at best** and the views of each may be different. For a person's end-of-life wishes to be carried out, it is necessary to have Advance Medical Directives, such as a Health Care Proxy and a Living Will.



What is a Health Care Proxy?

A Health Care Proxy is an individual (spouse, parent, relative or friend) whom you designate as your legal agent to make medical decisions for you when you are incapable of making them yourself. The terms "agent," "surrogate" and "proxy" are interchangeable.



What is a "Living Will?"

A Living Will is a document that provides your specific instructions about health care decisions. It directs medical professionals as to what to do regarding your end-of-life care.

HALACHIC LIVING WILL

What is a "Halachic Living Will?"

Since it is nearly impossible to anticipate the Halachic decisions to be made in situations that may occur, the Halachic Living Will was created. The "Halachic Medical Directive," created by Agudath Israel of America, and the "Halachic Health Care Proxy," created by the Rabbinical Council of America, are two common versions of Halachic Living Wills.

A Halachic Living Will is a legal document that appoints someone to be your health care agent AND directs your agent to make all decisions in accordance with Halachah. This includes some post-mortem decisions as well. In the event that a question arises regarding the appropriate Halachic protocol, the form directs the agent to the rabbi of your choice. This gives every Jew the peace of mind that all medical decisions made for them will be in accordance with Halachah and their wishes.

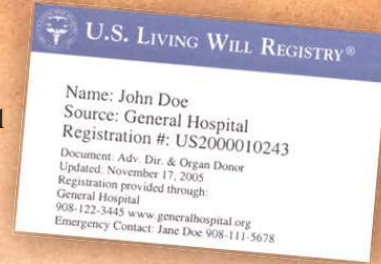


What do the forms consist of?

Part 1 is the appointment of a health care agent (and an alternate agent if the primary agent cannot be reached). Part 2 is the declaration that all end-of-life decisions are to be performed in accordance with Halachah. To determine the requirements of Jewish law, the agent is directed to the Orthodox rabbi of your choice (and an alternate). Part 3 is your signature and that of two witnesses.

What is the U.S. Living Will Registry?

The U.S. Living Will Registry is a national database that allows you to register your Advance Directive. The Registry issues a card with your personal ID number. When necessary, a health care provider anywhere will access your Living Will and know your specific instructions regarding end-of-life care.



There is generally a \$60 fee to register with the U.S. Living Will Registry. However, it is possible to register for free through the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG), anywhere in the U.S., through an arrangement developed by Agudath Israel and the Orthodox Union.

For more information, please contact the NASCK office at 718-847-6280.

The EMES Card Program will protect you!

