

~ Alabama ~

Power of Attorney For Health Care Christian Version

NOTICE TO PERSON MAKING THIS DOCUMENT

You have the right to make decisions about your health care. No health care may be given to you over your objection, and necessary health care may not be stopped or withheld if you object.

Because your health care providers in some cases may not have had the opportunity to establish a long-term relationship with you, they are often unfamiliar with your beliefs and values and the details of your family relationships. This poses a problem if you become physically or mentally unable to make decisions about your health care.

In order to avoid this problem, you may sign this legal document to specify the person whom you wish to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to participate in medical treatment decisions and make those decisions personally. That person is known as your health care proxy. You should take some time to discuss your thoughts and beliefs about medical treatment with the person or persons whom you have specified. You may state in this document any types of health care that you do or do not desire, and you may limit the authority of your health care proxy. If your health care proxy is unaware of your desires with respect to a particular health care decision, he or she is required to determine what would be in your best interests in making the decision.

This is an important legal document. It gives your health care proxy broad powers to make health care decisions for you. It revokes any prior durable power of attorney for health care documents that you may have made. If you wish to change your Power of Attorney for Health Care, you may revoke this document at any time by destroying it, by directing another person to destroy it in your presence, by signing a written and dated statement, or by stating that it is revoked in the presence of two witnesses. If you revoke, you should notify your health care proxy, your health care provider(s), and any other person(s) to whom you have given a copy. If your health care proxy is your spouse and your marriage is annulled or you are divorced after signing this document, the document is invalid.

Do not sign this document unless you clearly understand it. It is suggested that you keep the original of this document with your personal papers where it can be easily accessed by your health care proxy, close family, or friends, if needed.

STATE OF ALABAMA POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

Written in accordance with Alabama § 22-8A-4

Document made this _____ day of _____, _____
Month Year

CREATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

I, _____, _____
Print full legal name Address

_____/_____/_____, being 19 years of age or older and of sound mind, intend by this document to create a power of attorney for health care. My executing this power of attorney for health care is voluntary. Despite the creation of this power of attorney for health care, I expect to be fully informed about and allowed to participate in any health care decision for me, to the extent that I am able. For the purposes of this document, "health care decision" means an informed decision to accept, maintain, discontinue, or refuse any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat my physical or mental condition. I hereby revoke any prior power of attorney for health care.

In addition, I may, by this document, specify my wishes with respect to making an anatomical gift upon my death.

DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE PROXY

If I am no longer able to make health care decisions for myself, due to my incapacity, I hereby designate

_____, _____
Health care proxy Address

(_____) _____, to be my health care proxy for the purpose of making health care decisions on my behalf.
Phone

If he or she is ever unable or unwilling to do so, I hereby designate _____,
Alternate health care proxy

_____, (_____) _____, to be my alternate health
Address Phone

care proxy for the purpose of making health care decisions on my behalf. Neither my health care proxy nor my alternate health care proxy whom I have designated, is my health care provider, an employee of my health care provider, an employee of a health care facility in which I am a patient or a spouse of any of those persons, unless he or she is also my relative. For purposes of this document, "incapacity" exists if two (2) physicians or a physician and a psychologist who have personally examined me sign a statement that specifically expresses their opinion that I have a condition that means that I am unable to receive and evaluate information effectively or to communicate decisions to such an extent that I lack the capacity to manage my health care decisions. A copy of that statement must be attached to this document.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY GRANTED

Unless I have specified otherwise in this document, if I ever have incapacity I instruct my health care provider to obtain the health care decision of my health care proxy if I need treatment, for all of my health care and treatment. I have discussed my desires thoroughly with my health care proxy and believe that he or she understands any philosophy regarding the health care decisions I would make if I were able. I desire that my wishes be carried out through the authority given to my health care proxy under this document.

If I am unable, due to my incapacity, to participate in making a health care decision, my health care proxy is instructed to make the health care decision for me, but my health care proxy should try to discuss with me any specific proposed health care if I am able to communicate in any manner, including by blinking my eyes. If this communication cannot be made, my health care proxy shall base his or her decision on any health care choices that I have expressed prior to the time of the decision. If I have not expressed a health care choice about the health care in question and communication cannot be made, my health care proxy shall base his or her health care decision on what he or she believes to be in my best interest. My health care proxy may not consent to sterilization, abortion when not necessary to preserve the life of the principal, or involuntary hospitalization or treatment.

LIMITATIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

My health care proxy may not admit or commit me on an inpatient basis to an institution for mental diseases, a state treatment facility, or a treatment facility. My health care proxy may not consent to experimental mental health research or psychosurgery, electroconvulsive treatment, or drastic mental health treatment procedures for me.

ADMISSION TO NURSING HOMES

My health care proxy may admit me to a nursing home for short-term stays for recuperative care or respite care.

If I have checked “Yes” to the following, my health care proxy may admit me for a purpose other than recuperative care or respite care, but if I have checked “No” to the following, my health care proxy may not so admit me:

1. A nursing home **Yes** **No** (SEE ADDENDUM – pages 7-10)

If I have not checked either “Yes” or “No” immediately above, my health care proxy may only admit me for short-term stays for recuperative care or respite care.

PROVISION OF FEEDING TUBE

If I have checked “Yes” to the following, my health care proxy may have a feeding tube withheld or withdrawn from me, unless my physician has advised that, in his or her professional judgment, this will cause me pain or will reduce my comfort. If I have checked “No” to the following, my health care proxy may not have a feeding tube withheld or withdrawn from me.

My health care proxy may not have orally ingested nutrition or hydration withheld or withdrawn from me unless provision of the nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

- Withhold or withdraw a feeding tube **Yes** **No** (SEE ADDENDUM – pages 7-10)

If I have not checked either “Yes” or “No” immediately above, my health care proxy may not have a feeding tube withheld or withdrawn from me.

HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

If I have checked “Yes” to the following, my health care proxy may make health care decisions for me even if my health care proxy knows I am pregnant. If I have checked “No” to the following, my health care proxy may not make health care decisions for me if my health care proxy knows I am pregnant.

Health care decision if I am pregnant **Yes** **No** (SEE ADDENDUM – pages 7-10)

If I have not checked either “Yes” or “No” immediately above, my health care proxy may not make health care decisions for me if he or she knows I am pregnant.

In no event is my health care proxy authorized to make medical treatment decisions to withhold or withdraw treatment for me if I am pregnant that would result in my death.

STATEMENT OF DESIRES, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, OR LIMITATIONS

In exercising authority under this document, my health care proxy shall act consistently with my following stated desires, if any, and is subject to any special provisions or limitations that I specify. The following are any specific desires, provisions, or limitations that I wish to state (add more items as appropriate):

1. I request that the attached Addendum (pages 7-10) be included as a valid part of this Power of Attorney for Health Care document.
2. I request, but not as a requirement, that my health care proxy consult my clergy regarding health care decisions.
3. _____

(Attach Additional Pages, If Needed)

INSPECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO MY PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH

Subject to any limitations in this document, my health care proxy has the authority to do all of the following:

1. Request, review, and receive any information, verbal or written, regarding my physical or mental health, including medical and hospital records.
2. Execute on my behalf any documents that may be required in order to obtain this information.
3. Consent to the disclosure of this information.

HIPAA RELEASE STATEMENT

I intend for my health care proxy to be treated as I would with respect to my rights regarding the use and disclosure of my individual protected health information or other medical records. I grant to my health care proxy the right to receive, disclose, or release, without restriction, all of my protected health information. This release statement applies to any information that is governed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996.

The principal and the witnesses must sign the document at the same time.

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL

(Person creating this Power of Attorney for Health Care)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(The signing of this document by the principal revokes all previous power of attorney for health care documents.)

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

I know the principal personally and I believe him or her to be of sound mind and at least 19 years of age. I believe that his or her execution of this power of attorney for health care is voluntary. I did not sign the principal's signature above for or at the direction of the principal. I am at least 19 years of age, am not related to the principal by blood, marriage, or adoption and am not directly financially responsible for the principal's health care. I am not a health care provider who is serving the principal at this time, an employee of the health care provider, other than a chaplain or a social worker, or an employee of an inpatient health care facility in which the principal is a patient. I am not the principal's health care proxy. To the best of my knowledge, I am not entitled to and do not have a claim on the principal's estate.

Witness #1

Print name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Witness #2

Print name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

STATEMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROXY

I understand that _____ has designated me to be his or her health care proxy
Name of principal
if he or she is ever found to have incapacity and unable to participate in making health care decisions himself or herself.

_____ has discussed his or her desires regarding health care decisions with me.
Name of principal

Health care proxy's signature: _____

Address: _____

STATEMENT OF ALTERNATE HEALTH CARE PROXY

I understand that _____ has designated me to be his or her alternate
Name of principal
health care proxy if he or she is ever found to have incapacity and unable to make health care decisions himself or herself
and if the person designated as health care proxy is unable or unwilling to make those decisions.

_____ has discussed his or her desires regarding health care decisions with me.
Name of principal

Alternate health care proxy's signature: _____

Address: _____

ANATOMICAL GIFTS *Optional*

Upon my death:

_____ I wish to donate only the following organs or parts:

[Attach additional pages, if needed]

_____ I wish to donate any needed organ or part.

_____ I wish to donate my body for anatomical study if needed.

_____ I refuse to make an anatomical gift. (If this revokes a prior commitment that I have made to make an anatomical gift to a designated donee, I will attempt to notify the donee to which or to whom I agreed to donate.)

Failure to check any of the lines immediately above creates no presumption about my desire to make or refusal to make an anatomical gift.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

ADDENDUM TO THE STATE OF ALABAMA POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

MY HEALTH CARE STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

My philosophy regarding the health care decisions I would make, if I were able to participate in medical treatment decisions, is based on my belief in the inherent value of human life and that life is a gift from God. It is my desire that all reasonable efforts be made to sustain my life and health.

I believe that death is the normal end of earthly life, and that God takes life by his decision. Therefore, I reject any attempt to end my life when God would sustain it, regardless of any diminished state of quality to my life, even if I have a disability. Similarly, I reject any attempt to lengthen my life when it is clear God intends to take it.

I believe life begins at conception. Therefore, if I have been diagnosed as pregnant and my physician knows of this diagnosis, I request that every effort be made to save the life of my unborn child in full recognition that two lives are at stake, both equal in value and worthy of protection.

HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES

1. I direct my health care proxy to consent to the following health care:
 - a. Health care that is intended to relieve pain or to make me comfortable.
 - b. Health care to cure or improve any physical or mental condition which can be cured or improved. This includes health care that is intended to be used temporarily or because it is potentially effective.
2. My health care proxy has no authority to consent to any act or omission intended to cause or hasten my death.
3. I instruct my health care proxy to ensure that my attending physician and other health care providers provide my health care based on my health care philosophy and my health care directives as set forth in this document.
4. Should it become clear that God wishes to take my life, namely that I am diagnosed to have a terminal illness or injury where death is imminent, I direct that life-sustaining procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die in God's time. I do *not* give consent for the withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, even if I am diagnosed to have a terminal illness or injury, if doing so would cause my death by starvation or dehydration rather than from the terminal condition or injury.
4. If God allows the quality of my life to be diminished but gives me strength to continue living for an indeterminate amount of time, I request that reasonable care be administered to me to sustain my life and ease discomfort as much as possible.

EXCEPTIONS TO HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES

1. My health care proxy may refuse consent to health care that would not be effective in terms of my survival.

2. If I have an incurable terminal illness or injury where I am in the final stages of dying, and it is medically certain that my death will occur within hours or a few days, my health care proxy may consent to the withholding or withdrawal of any health care that is not intended to relieve pain or make me comfortable.
3. If I have an incurable terminal illness or injury, and it is medically certain that my death will occur within six (6) months, my health care proxy may consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining health care. However, I still desire health care for easily treatable acute and chronic conditions, and health care that is intended to relieve pain or make me comfortable.
5. If I have a total, chronic, and irreversible loss of consciousness, and this condition has been diagnosed with medical certainty by two physicians, one of whom is my attending physician and the other is an expert in diagnosing my condition, my health care proxy may consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining health care. However, I still desire health care for easily treatable acute and chronic conditions, and health care that is intended to relieve pain or make me comfortable.

NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

Food and fluids

1. I believe that nutrition and hydration are basic human needs which should be provided to me even though providing them may require medical expertise and technology.
2. If I have checked “Yes” to the “Withhold or withdraw a feeding tube” option in the “PROVISION OF FEEDING TUBE” section of the Power of Attorney for Health Care Document, then a feeding tube may only be withheld or withdrawn from me if:
 - a. I have an incurable terminal illness or injury where I am in the final stage of dying, and it is medically certain that my death will occur within hours or a few days, and
 - b. The withholding or withdrawal of the feeding tube would not result in my death from malnutrition or dehydration, or complications of malnutrition or dehydration, rather than from my underlying terminal illness or injury.

PREGNANT WOMEN

If I am pregnant, the following applies:

1. My health care proxy is authorized to make health care decisions on behalf of my unborn child as an individual patient.
2. Health care necessary to sustain the life or health of my unborn child should be provided unless it is medically certain that my unborn child would not survive even if the health care were provided.
3. It is my desire that all reasonable efforts be made to sustain both my life and health and the life and health of my unborn child.
4. Even if I have an incurable illness or injury, or I am legally determined to be brain dead, it is my desire to receive all health care, to remain on any necessary life support systems, and to receive nutrition and hydration until my unborn child can sustain life apart from my body, unless it is medically certain that my unborn child would not survive even if I receive such health care.
6. No one is authorized to consent to an abortion for me unless it is directly and medically necessary to prevent my death.

The principal and the witnesses must sign the document at the same time.

SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL

(Person creating this Power of Attorney for Health Care)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(The signing of this document by the principal revokes all previous power of attorney for health care documents.)

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

I know the principal personally and I believe him or her to be of sound mind and at least 19 years of age. I believe that his or her execution of this power of attorney for health care is voluntary. I did not sign the principal's signature above for or at the direction of the principal. I am at least 19 years of age, am not related to the principal by blood, marriage, or adoption and am not directly financially responsible for the principal's health care. I am not a health care provider who is serving the principal at this time, an employee of the health care provider, other than a chaplain or a social worker, or an employee of an inpatient health care facility in which the principal is a patient. I am not the principal's health care proxy. To the best of my knowledge, I am not entitled to and do not have a claim on the principal's estate.

Witness #1

Print name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

Witness #2

Print name: _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____

Signature: _____

STATEMENT OF HEALTH CARE PROXY

I understand that _____ has designated me to be his or her health care proxy
if he or she is ever found to have incapacity and unable to participate in making health care decisions himself or herself.

_____ has discussed his or her desires regarding health care decisions with me.
Name of principal

Health care proxy's signature: _____

Address: _____

STATEMENT OF ALTERNATE HEALTH CARE PROXY

I understand that _____ has designated me to be his or her alternate
Name of principal
health care proxy if he or she is ever found to have incapacity and unable to make health care decisions himself or herself and if the person designated as health care proxy is unable or unwilling to make those decisions.

_____ has discussed his or her desires regarding health care decisions with me.
Name of principal

Alternate health care proxy's signature: _____

Address: _____

CLERGY *Optional*

The principal has requested that the health care proxy consult me, as the principal's clergy, regarding any health care decisions. I understand that this request has been made and am willing to work with the health care proxy to help meet the directives as described in this Power of Attorney for Health Care document and attached Addendum.

Clergy's signature: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Church address: _____

I have given copies of this Power of Attorney for Health Care – Christian Version to:
