

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

April 1, 2016

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Simplified *Advance Decision* Document

Dear Brothers:

Our *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document serves as a protection against forced blood transfusions in the case of a medical emergency. We are pleased to inform you that a simplified document, which is easier to complete, has been produced.

The simplified document will be provided to each baptized publisher at the conclusion of this meeting. Please carefully read and follow the instructions on the document. Adhering to the instructions helps to avoid unnecessary challenges to the legal validity of the document. This simplified document should be completed as soon as possible.

As a reminder, you should provide copies of your completed *Advance Decision* document to (1) those who served as witnesses, (2) your General Practitioner (doctor), and (3) your congregation secretary. Additionally, you may wish to keep a copy with your will and other important documents.—Prov. 22:3.

We are confident that the simplified *Advance Decision* document will help Jehovah's people worldwide to obey the Bible's command "to keep abstaining . . . from blood."—Acts 15:28, 29.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers
Hospital Liaison Committees

PS to Bodies of Elders:

A quantity of simplified *Advance Decision* documents based on the number of baptized publishers in your congregation will be sent to you. Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first midweek meeting **after the receipt of the documents**. Thereafter, the letter should be posted on the noticeboard. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the noticeboard.**

Please note that the simplified document does not address matters of conscience. An individual's personal decisions involving matters of conscience may be included in the space provided for other health-care instructions. If brothers request information or assistance with respect to these issues, the *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert "How Do I View Blood Fractions and Medical Procedures Involving My Own Blood" from November 2006 is a very helpful point of reference (available from jw.org).

After you have received your supply of the simplified *Advance Decision* documents and the letter has been read to the congregation, supplies of the previous version of this document should be removed from congregation stock and destroyed. Additionally, use of *Instructions for Filling In the Advance Decision Document (dpai)* has been discontinued. The form has been removed from jw.org, and any copies in the congregation file should be destroyed.

Additionally, we are pleased to advise you that a new form, entitled *Guidelines for Supporting Those With Medical Needs (S-139)*, has been posted to jw.org. It is designed to help you when assisting individual publishers complete the *Advance Decision* document and when assisting those in specific circumstances that might involve the blood issue. At this time, each elder with a jw.org account should print copies of the form and have them available for use in case of an emergency. The congregation secretary should remind each elder to do so and should provide a copy for any elder who does not have a jw.org account.