

# TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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April 1, 2016

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Simplified DPA Card

Dear Brothers:

Our DPA (Durable Power of Attorney) card serves as a protection against forced blood transfusions in the case of a medical emergency. We are pleased to inform you that a simplified DPA card, which is easier to fill out, has been produced.

The simplified DPA card will be provided to each baptized publisher at the conclusion of this meeting. Please carefully read and follow the instructions on the card. Following the instructions helps to avoid unnecessary challenges to the legal validity of the document. The simplified card should be filled out as soon as possible, and thereafter carried on one's person with ID cards.

As a reminder, you should provide copies of your completed DPA card to your health-care agents, and your doctor or hospital. Additionally, you may wish to keep a copy with your will and other important documents.—Prov. 22:3.

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

Your brothers,

*Testigos Cristianos de Jehová*

**Important Note:** All the autonomous regional governments of Spain have an official registry (called 'Documento' or 'Declaración' of 'voluntades anticipadas' or 'instrucciones previas') for the use of each person. The contents of the DPA of each publisher may be registered there by filling out the official forms provided. The contents of these declarations is uploaded into the "Registro Nacional de Instrucciones Previas", a national data base that medical professionals are obligated to consult and follow when giving treatment. So officially registering the prior instructions contained in the Durable Power of Attorney assures that they can be consulted and applied by the doctor whenever the need arises. Many brothers have officially registered their prior instructions with their local regional government; in view of the resulting clear advantages, **we encourage all who have not yet done so** to take this step. The elders will gladly help anyone who needs assistance in this matter. Even if the prior instructions have been officially registered, the personal DPA card should be filled out and carried on one's person. Those who have officially registered their instructions may so indicate in the blank space at the top of Page 1, Point 4, of their DPA card. Write in clearly legible letters "Esta negativa y otras instrucciones constan en el Registro Nacional de Instrucciones Previas" (a sample DPA card showing this is enclosed). If this notation is made, there is no need to fill out this page of the card, except for the name at the top. Page 2: The designated representatives should be the same ones indicated in the official registry (any changes should also be made in the official registry); also, it is preferable that the witnesses who sign the DPA card be the same ones whose signature appears in the official registry.

c: Circuit overseers  
Hospital Liaison Committees

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PS to bodies of elders:

A quantity of simplified DPA cards 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 cards**. Thereafter, the letter should be posted on the information board. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**

Please note that the simplified DPA card 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.

After you have received your supply of simplified DPA cards and the letter has been read to the congregation, all previous blank versions of the card should be removed from congregation stock and destroyed. Additionally, use of *Instructions for Filling Out the DPA Card (dpai)* has been discontinued. The form has been removed from [jw.org](http://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 on [jw.org](http://jw.org). It is designed to help you when assisting individual publishers to fill out a DPA card and when assisting those in specific circumstances that might involve the blood issue. At this time, each elder with a [jw.org](http://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](http://jw.org) account.