

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



Hse. No. J348/4 - Tema Beach Road - Nungua, Accra
P. O. Box GP 760, Accra, Ghana Tel. No.: (030) 2712456-8; 7010110 Fax: (030) 2712454

July 29, 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. Adhering to the instructions helps to avoid unnecessary challenges to the legal validity of the document. The simplified card should be filled out and completed as soon as possible.

As a reminder, you should provide copies of your completed DPA card to (1) your health-care agents, (2) your doctor or hospital, 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 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,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

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, 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. 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 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.