

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

Apartado postal 132 - 28850 TORREJÓN DE ARDOZ (Madrid)

DOMICILIO SOCIAL: Ctra. Torrejón a Ajalvir (M-108), km. 5 - 28864 AJALVIR (Madrid) • Teléfono: (+34) 918 879 700 • Fax: (+34) 918 879 702

SE March 31, 2017

TO THE CONGREGATIONS

Re: Clarifications regarding the *Durable Power of Attorney* (DPA)

Dear Brothers:

A number of questions have come up relative to the new card and the advance instructions registered in the *Registro de Instrucciones Previas*, so we would like point out certain details as set forth below.

First of all, a reminder: Having advance instructions registered in the official *Registro* of the autonomous community of residence offers strong legal assurance that our wishes will be respected. Also, if the instructions are on record doctors can consult them directly from the hospital by accessing the *Registro*. If our advance instructions are already recorded, the new DPA card is an additional protection that we should have on our person at all times. If one is unconscious because of an accident the card will alert medical professionals that we do not accept blood and that the *Registro de instrucciones previas* should be consulted.

On the other hand, we have been receiving complaints from the *Registro* offices of different autonomous communities. They say they are overwhelmed by a massive influx of brothers wishing to change some detail of the advance instructions already on record. Please have in mind that while updating the entries shows our appreciation, it is also true that in certain circumstances there is no need to modify the instructions already recorded. For example, it is not necessary to change the names of the witnesses found in the official record simply because they do not coincide with the names on the new DPA card. Nor is there any need to notify changes in address, telephone numbers, etc., as such data is not relevant to the purpose of the document. If there is just a change in the substitute representative, no change in the *Registro* is required.

If when filling out the new DPA card we see that the main representative designated in the recorded document must be changed, this should be done. But it is better not do so in a rush, as this could paralyze the office of the *Registro*, and this could be detrimental to the brothers in general. The adjustment can be made a little later on. Another reason not to saturate the office of the *Registro* with immediate requests is to give priority to the brothers who do not have any advance instructions on official record. They should be the ones to go to the *Registro* office as soon as possible. In view of the foregoing, if one needs to make a change in the official document, it would be advisable to consult the congregation elders beforehand.

Please remember that according to law the role of the representative is to make sure that the wishes of each one as expressed in the advance instructions are respected. Therefore, it is preferable to name a close relative or very close friend who knows our opinion and can defend it when we ourselves are not able to do so. The representative is not authorized to change any provision recorded in the advance instructions.

According to the legislation of Spain, minors cannot fill out the advance instruction document. But there is no legal obstacle for baptized young people 16 or 17 years old to write a document expressing their will respecting the use of blood. However, for the reason mentioned above such a document should at no time be referred to or identified as a document of *voluntades anticipadas*, or of advance instructions. The document should begin by listing all pertinent identification data. Then one's express will to not accept blood transfusions could be written in a way similar to paragraph 2 of our DPA card. Representatives should not be named, as according to law this pertains to the parents. The document should be dated and signed by the minor, and if the parents are Witnesses they should also sign.

Re: Clarifications regarding the Durable Power of Attorney (DPA)

SE March 31, 2017

Page 2

As a last detail, many have asked if the DNI (*Documento Nacional de Identidad*) number should be included in the DPA card. Although it is not absolutely necessary, it can be written in beside the signature.

We hope that these clarifications serve a useful purpose, brothers. Receive warm greetings and an expression of Christian love.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

c. c. Circuit overseers