DOWNLOAD COVERSHEET:

This is a standard advance directive for your state, made available to you as a courtesy by Lifecare Directives, LLC. You should be aware that extensive research has demonstrated that there are significant drawbacks to using a very brief state-standard document. As one researcher has noted, "the development of statutory forms occurs in the legislative arena, [so] their content is the result of a political rather than a 'scientific' process." Because of "political compromise, ...many of the forms ultimately passed by the legislatures are not optimal from a consumer perspective" (see: Hoffmann, Diane E; Zimmerman, S; Tompkins, C. The dangers of directives, or the false security of forms. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. 1996;24(1) (Spring):5-17).

American Bar Association concurs, noting that "The statutory advance directive is not necessarily the exclusive, or even the best, pathway for individuals to follow," and suggesting that revised and enhanced documents "may be especially helpful as a...replacement for statutory forms where restrictions in a statutory directive prevents the individual from fully expressing his or her wishes" (see: American Bar Association. (1991). *Patient Self Determination Act State Law Guide*. Government printing office, Washington, DC).

Lifecare Directives staff have reviewed more than 6,000 medical, legal, academic, and news media articles on advance directives, as well as reviewing hundreds of document forms. They have also conducted formal research with scores of medical, legal, and academic processionals along with more than 1,000 lay public participants. From this process, more than 30 additional key living will and medical power of attorney enhancements have been identified that should be included in any living will (or "health care instruction" or "declaration") and medical power of attorney (or "proxy") forms that you may use.

Please consider obtaining the *Lifecare Advance Healthcare Directive* to obtain these important additions and benefits. To better understand the important enhancements available through this combined living will and medical power of attorney, you may wish to obtain the booklet, "*Should I Use a Shorter Standard Directive?*" available through Lifecare Directives, LLC.

If you have any other questions about this document or other Lifecare resources, please do not hesitate to contact our staff who will make every effort to fully respond your inquiries and address any questions you may have. We can be reached at the following:

Lifecare Directives, LLC
5348 Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108
www.lifecaredirectives.com
Toll Free: (877) 559-XXXX

~ Lifecare Directives ~

Statutory Advance Directive

For

District of Columbia Residents

Statutory Compliant Advance Directive for Health Care Choices

~ Lifecare Directives ~

Statutory Advance Directive

For

District of Columbia Residents

Statutory Compliant Advance Directive for Health Care Choices

Important Notice:

An advance directive is not a substitute for medical, legal or other necessary advice or direction. This document should not be construed as offering counseling, medical, legal, financial, or estate planning or advice, nor any other similar guidance or direction. Such counsel should be obtained from qualified, certified, and licensed professionals in your locale who are experienced in the specific areas of concern. Completion of this document constitutes acceptance of its content both in whole and in part, as well as a determination of its utility for the purposes indicated. Lifecare Directives, LLC, and all involved in this document's design, publication, and distribution assume no liability for its use, including that which may arise from omissions, technical inaccuracies, and typographical errors. Diligent efforts notwithstanding, this document is not warrantied to be in compliance with state and local laws. All warranties, including those of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement are expressly disclaimed. The utilizer agrees to seek appropriate outside review prior to completion. The utilizer and all heirs, assigns, designees, devisees, representatives, and all others involved, agree to assume all liability for its use and any subsequent outcomes, and to release and hold harmless all involved in its design, publication, advertising and distribution. The utilizer also agrees that any physician, health care provider, agent, proxy, surrogate, representative, mediator, court officer, and all others relying on the document's content are similarly free of all liability, when they act in good faith and with due diligence to follow the recorded wishes and directions.

Statutory Advance Directive
For District of Columbia Residents

_____ _____

Print Full Name *Date of Birth*

Your right *(when age 18 or older): To Document Your Personal Wishes, and to have these wishes followed ~~*

The District of Columbia legislature has provided statutes guiding the construction of both a living will and a Power of Attorney for Health Care for use by the public. Collectively, these documents are known as "advance directives." As the content of these documents was designed by your state government, each is in compliance with all applicable statutes and laws.

There is an introduction to each that summarizes the scope and purpose of the documents, as well as providing further directions for completion. Read them carefully to ensure that your advance directives are fully and properly filled out.

Understanding Your Directive

To make the *best* choices for your medical care, your physician needs to know *your* wishes. In fact, the law requires doctors to seek your permission before giving you *any* treatment. However, if you are ever unable to make decisions due to severe illness or injury, this may not be possible. Completing this Directive will help your family and physicians know who should speak for you, and understand what you want if you cannot make this known yourself.

You can **revoke** (cancel) this directive at ***any*** time by: **1**) writing "revoked" across the front of the directive, followed by your signature and date, and the signature of at least one witness aged 18 years or older ; or **2**) by completing a Notice of Revocation; or **3**) by *telling* an adult witness that you want it revoked (who must then sign and date a statement, which becomes effective only when given to your doctor or health care provider); or **4**) *by simply completing a new directive* in which you state that any prior directive is no longer valid.

You can **limit** your directive and the authority of anyone named in it, but *no changes are recommended after the document is witnessed*. Any scope-of-authority or content changes needed *after* your directive has been witnessed should be made by completing a new directive. First-time changes can be made by lining out anything in the directive and writing "deleted" beside that clause or section (or initialing above any word(s) you have lined out), followed by your signature, and the signature of at least one of the persons serving as a witness to this document, placed in the margin immediately beside the change.

If you are **unable to write**, you may tell your directive witnesses what you want to have excluded, limited, or added to this directive. They must then sign, date, witness and/or notarize the statement of the limitations and exclusions as you have described them. Remember, unless

you direct otherwise, this directive will **only** be used to guide your family and doctors if you are unable to make and communicate medical treatment decisions for yourself.

Instructions for Completing the Directive:

This directive is written in two parts. While it is best if you fill out the whole document, you may choose to complete only ***Section I***, leaving just a statement of your values and wishes. Or you may complete only ***Section II***, just naming someone to speak for you. However, this may leave your family and others without any evidence to support your wishes in the future, or leave them unsure who is to make decisions and speak for you. Thus, omitting either section may cause your loved ones difficulty if they must eventually make medical choices in your behalf. So, you are strongly encouraged to complete the entire directive.

To complete each document, you should ***initial*** in the underlined spaces provided beside all the questions that are asked, and fill in any blank lines as directed. Feel free to write "No," "None," or "Does Not Apply" in areas that would otherwise be left blank.

SECTION I:
LIVING WILL DECLARATION
and Personal Instructions

(*DC Code, Title7: Subtitle A: Chapter 6: Sub-chapter II: §7621 to §7-630*)

---

1. INTRODUCTION: *The District of Columbia Living Will was designed specifically to refuse medical treatment when an individual is diagnosed, by two physicians, as having "a terminal condition"(§7-621). A* ***terminal condition*** *is defined as "an incurable condition caused by injury, disease, or illness, which, regardless of the application of life-sustaining procedures, would ,within reasonable medical judgment, produce death, and where the application of life-sustaining procedures serves only to postpone the moment of death of the patient"(§7-621.6). In such a situation, it is lawful to unequivocally refuse any or all "life-sustaining procedures"(§7-622).* ***Life-sustaining procedures*** *are defined as, "any medical procedure or intervention, which, when applied ...would serve only to artificially prolong the dying process and where...death will occur whether or not such procedure or intervention is utilized" (§7-621.3). The term expressly excludes any treatment "necessary to provide comfort care or to alleviate pain..."(§7-621.3).*

DECLARATION

Declaration made this_____day of_____, 20_____.

I, _____, being of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make known my desires that my dying shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, do declare:

If at any time I should have an incurable injury, disease, or illness certified to be a terminal condition by 2 physicians who have personally examined me, one of whom shall be my attending physician, and the physicians have determined that my death will occur whether or not life-

sustaining procedures are utilized and where the application of life-sustaining procedures would serve only to artificially prolong the dying process, I direct that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die naturally with only the administration of medication or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to provide me with comfort care or to alleviate pain.

In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of such life-sustaining procedures, it is my intention that this declaration shall be honored by my family and physician(s) as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and accept the consequences from such refusal. I understand the full import of this declaration and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this declaration.

Signed: _____

Address: _____

Statement of Witnesses

I believe the declarant to be of sound mind. I did not sign the declarant's signature above for or at the direction of the declarant. I am at least 18 years of age and am not related to the declarant by blood or marriage, entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarant according to the laws of intestate succession of the District of Columbia or under any will of the declarant or codicil thereto, or directly financially responsible for declarant's medical care. I am not the declarant's attending physician, an employee of the attending physician, or an employee of the health facility in which the declarant is a patient.

Witness: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Witness: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

SECTION II:
DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY
for Health Care Decisions

(DC Code, Div. III: Title:21; Ch.22: §21-2201 to §21-2213)

INTRODUCTION: *This section lets you name a person to make health care decisions for you if you cannot make them for yourself. The person must be at least 21 years of age. Other than required statutory language (which has been included), the District of Columbia statutes note that "any written form meeting the requirements of §21-2205 may be used to create a durable power of attorney for health care" (§21-2207). To this end, Lifecare staff have produced a form which also includes information which a majority of the public has indicated was of significant importance to them.*

INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT. BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, IT IS VITAL FOR YOU TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THESE FACTS:

THIS DOCUMENT GIVES THE PERSON YOU NAME AS YOUR ATTORNEY IN FACT THE POWER TO MAKE HEALTH-CARE DECISIONS FOR YOU IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF.

AFTER YOU HAVE SIGNED THIS DOCUMENT, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE HEALTH-CARE DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF IF YOU ARE MENTALLY COMPETENT TO DO SO. IN ADDITION, AFTER YOU HAVE SIGNED THIS DOCUMENT, NO TREATMENT MAY BE GIVEN TO YOU OR STOPPED OVER YOUR OBJECTION IF YOU ARE MENTALLY COMPETENT TO MAKE THAT DECISION.

YOU MAY STATE IN THIS DOCUMENT ANY TYPE OF TREATMENT THAT YOU DO NOT DESIRE AND ANY THAT YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE AWAY THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR ATTORNEY IN FACT, UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED INCOMPETENT, BY NOTIFYING YOUR ATTORNEY IN FACT OR HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITING. SHOULD YOU REVOKE THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR ATTORNEY IN FACT, IT IS ADVISABLE TO REVOKE IN WRITING AND TO PLACE COPIES OF THE REVOCATION WHEREVER THIS DOCUMENT IS LOCATED.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING IN THIS DOCUMENT THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, YOU SHOULD ASK A SOCIAL WORKER, LAWYER, OR OTHER PERSON TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.

* * * * *

YOU SHOULD KEEP A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AFTER YOU HAVE SIGNED IT. GIVE A COPY TO THE PERSON YOU NAME AS YOUR ATTORNEY IN FACT. IF YOU ARE IN A HEALTH-CARE FACILITY, A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR MEDICAL RECORD.

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

Be it known that I:

Full Legal Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ County: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____

~~ do hereby appoint:

Name of Agent: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

~~ as my attorney in fact to make health-care decisions for me if I become unable to make my own health-care decisions. This gives my attorney in fact the power to grant, refuse, or withdraw consent on my behalf for any health-care service, treatment or procedure. My attorney in fact also has the authority to talk to health-care personnel, get information and sign forms necessary to carry out these decisions.

If the person named as my attorney in fact is not available or is unable to act as my attorney in fact, I appoint the following person to serve in the order listed below:

Name of Alternate Agent #1:_____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of Alternate Agent #2: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell Phone or Pager: _____ E-mail: _____

With this document, I intend to create a power of attorney for health care, which shall take effect if I become incapable of making my own health-care decisions and shall continue during that incapacity.

My attorney in fact shall make health-care decisions as I direct below or as I make known to my attorney in fact in some other way.

"(a) STATEMENT OF DIRECTIVES CONCERNING LIFE-PROLONGING CARE, TREATMENT, SERVICES, AND PROCEDURES:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

(b) SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

BY MY SIGNATURE I INDICATE THAT I UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THIS DOCUMENT.

I sign my name to this form on (*date*): _____

at (*address*): _____
_____

_____
(*Signature*)

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

I declare that the person who signed or acknowledged this document is personally known to me, that the person signed or acknowledged this durable power of attorney for health care in my presence, and that the person appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence. I am not the person appointed as the attorney in fact by this document, nor am I the health-care provider of the principal or an employee of the health-care provider of the principal.

First Witness:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

Second Witness:

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____

(*At Least 1 of the Witnesses Listed above Shall Also Sign the Following Declaration*.)

I further declare that I am not related to the principal by blood, marriage or adoption, and, to the best of my knowledge, I am not entitled to any part of the estate of the principal under a currently existing will or by operation of law.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

For additional copies of this directive, or other related materials, please contact Lifecare Directives, LLC, at:

Lifecare Directives, LLC
5348 Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108
(877) 559-0527
www.lifecaredirectives.com