

# WATCHTOWER

Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

Hospital Information Services

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HIM:HIF April 19, 2004

Congregation of  
Jehovah's Witnesses,  
Attention Body of Elders

C/O BROOKLYN MAIL CARRIER

Dear Brothers:

Enclosed is an updated list of the members of the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) to which your congregation is assigned. Each elder should make several copies of this letter (including the information on the reverse side) to have available at all times—at home, at work, and in his book bag. *Please do not make copies of this material for publishers, or post it on the information board, or read it to the congregation.*

Remember that the HLC is a valuable resource, since these brothers have developed a close working relationship with medical personnel. As emphasized in previous years, it is wise to contact the HLC **in advance** for assistance. This is especially important in the following areas:

- Older ones - Time may be needed to assist these publishers in filling out the health-care durable power of attorney (DPA) form and other necessary paperwork. Also, since some may not have Witness family members, it is vital to provide support to ensure that the brother or sister, when alone or at night, is not subjected to intimidation.
- Pregnant sisters - For various reasons, complications can arise throughout the pregnancy. If the doctor is not prepared or experienced to handle situations that include massive bleeding, valuable time is lost. The health and very life of the sister could be in danger.
- Children - The legal reality is that when true emergency situations exist, physicians can treat with standard practice (which may include blood) without parental consent. Therefore, the degree of cooperation and the experience of the physician are of utmost importance. Parents need to consider their best option when seeking care for their child, perhaps even locating such a physician in another city with help from the HLC. Regarding the legal provision of mature minors making their own health-care decisions, parents should carefully review information in *The Watchtower*, June 15, 1991, pages 15-18.

Due to patient privacy regulations, hospitals are legally required to control access to patient information. Therefore, Witness patients should specifically request, at the time of admission, that they receive a visit from a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Be assured that we appreciate your support and assistance when brothers face challenging medical situations. We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers in Jehovah's service,

*Watchtower B. & T. Society*  
OF NEW YORK, INC.

Enclosure

Assignment:

Hospital Liaison Committee