

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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HIA:HSA November 10, 2011

TO BODIES OF ELDERS OF FOREIGN-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONS
AND CONGREGATIONS CARING FOR A FOREIGN-LANGUAGE GROUP

Re: *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document

Dear Brothers:

You will note that in January, a Service Meeting part will be featuring one of the presentations on our *Transfusion Alternatives* DVD. Please could we ask that you direct the brother handling this part to remind all publishers that a copy of their completed *Advance Decision* document should be lodged with the congregation secretary.

If the equivalent of the *Advance Decision* document is available in your language, or if publishers have personal copies of such, they are free to use this in addition to the English one. However, please ensure that the brothers understand the importance of completing the English version of the *Advance Decision* document, as this is the one that has legal validity locally; it is important for a copy of this to be lodged with the patient's notes for all hospital admissions. Additionally, the availability of the English document will better enable the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) to provide support and assistance should a need arise.

As a suggestion, we recommend that, if available in your language, you obtain supplies of the worksheet from the November 2006 *Our Kingdom Ministry*. (Please check the *Watchtower Library* on CD-ROM.) It could be announced that these are available and we suggest that you recommend to the brothers that they complete the worksheet; then, if necessary, local elders can make themselves available to assist the brothers in transferring their decisions from the worksheet to the *Advance Decision* document.

Could we also alert you to specialized documents that are available from your local HLC. For example, as soon as you learn that a sister is pregnant, you should request the *Care Plan for Women in Labour* from your local HLC. As usual, an elder should make the initial contact. If a brother or sister is diagnosed with cancer, again with the publisher's permission, please contact the local HLC, as they have a special document that may be of assistance in this case. There is also a general leaflet which, for any publisher facing major surgery in hospital, could well be helpful. Again, a request for that can be made by a telephone call/an email to your HLC from a local elder. Please remain alert to these situations as this may give publishers access to specific material held by the HLC, which may be of considerable benefit.

We pray that Jehovah will continue to bless your efforts to advance Kingdom interests and "shepherd the flock of God in your care." (1 Peter 5:2) Please accept this expression of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

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