

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

HIA:HSA December 2, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

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

Dear Brothers:

Please note that from now on a fixed amount of the *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document will no longer be sent to all congregations. Congregation secretaries have often maintained a supply of this document, but this item should now be requested in the usual way by your literature department. This letter replaces the letter dated November 15, 2005, to all bodies of elders regarding *Advance Decision to Refuse Specified Medical Treatment* document. That letter should be removed from the congregation file of letters and be destroyed.

There is no longer a need to renew our *Advance Decision* document on a yearly basis, however, we recommend that publishers renew their document at least every four years and, of course, publishers may for various reasons need to update/renew theirs at any time. Please remind the brothers that a copy of their *Advance Decision* document should be lodged with the congregation secretary, as well as with the brother's or sister's general practitioner (GP).

We ask you to ensure that your literature department maintains a good supply of both the *Advance Decision* document (dpa) and the *Identity Card* (ic). If a supply of these documents were not readily available and if, for example, a publisher's *Advance Decision* document inadvertently got lost, this would put the brother or sister in a very vulnerable and precarious position. Therefore, could the secretary please ensure that the brothers caring for your congregation literature understand the importance of always having these items in stock.

The item numbers for ordering via the [jw.org](http://jw.org) website are **9172** (dpa) and **8388** (ic).

You will notice that at some point later next year, when your congregation requests a new supply of the *Advance Decision* document an updated version of it will be distributed. However, please continue to use the current version as long as stocks last. The updated version provides the opportunity for the patient to supply his/her NHS number. If brothers and sisters enquire about this, please encourage them to add this important detail. In an era of electronic records, this number may enable medical professionals to identify an unconscious patient on admittance to hospital. It may therefore also confirm the patient's status as one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Also, please note that your next supply of the *Identity Card* will be a smaller, revised version. The completion of this should be self-explanatory.

You will recall that for some time now the four-page *Health-Care Advance Directive* document, which included end-of-life decisions, has not been available. For publishers who wish to make end-of-life decisions, please see our comments in the *Instructions for Filling In the Advance Decision Document*.

We appreciate your fine work as you shepherd and care for the congregation. (1 Peter 5:2, 3) We take this opportunity to convey a warm expression of our Christian affection.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

PS to the secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation file with other letters related to Hospital Liaison Committee/Advance Decision documents.

PS to all bodies of elders in the Republic of Ireland:

Please note that the revised *Advance Decision* document ought not to be used in the Republic of Ireland, but when placing future requests for this item, kindly indicate dpa-E Ir.