

ADDENDUM TO MY DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

I am an Orthodox Christian and an Orthodox Priest. I make this statement of my wishes a part of my Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. If I am not competent to make my own health care decisions, I state that I want all decisions about my medical care to be made in accordance with this document and my Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

Orthodox Christians believe that in death life is transformed by the power of Christ's death and resurrection into eternal life. Because of this belief, it is not always necessary to use every possible means to resist death. I ask that if I become terminally ill that I be fully informed of this fact so that I can prepare myself spiritually and emotionally for my eternal destiny with God.

If I am not competent to make my own health care decisions, I direct that the following be done for me. I direct that my advocate (and any agent, surrogate or health care provider) carry out my wishes expressed here and that I be cared for in accordance with Holy Tradition and the teachings and values of the Orthodox Christian faith.

If I am dying or in an irreversible coma or persistent vegetative state and there is no hope for recovery, I direct that no death delaying treatment be started or continued for the sole purpose of prolonging my life. I direct that I be given medications and treatments to relieve pain even if this results in shortening my life, but not for the purpose of ending my life.

I ask that I be cared for by my Christian community, family, friends and health care providers in a dignified and compassionate manner. Please keep my mouth and lips moist, please touch and comfort me and please read my favorite prayers and passages from the Bible to me. Please ensure that I am given the opportunity to receive the Sacraments. I ask my Christian community, friends and family to join me in prayer as I prepare for death and that they continue to pray for me after my death. Please care for me in accordance with Holy Tradition and the teachings and values of the Orthodox Christian faith.

I direct that after my death, my body be handled in accordance with Holy Tradition and the teachings and values of the Orthodox Church. If I have donated any of my organs or if there is an autopsy performed on my body, it should be done in a manner that will best prepare my body for an Orthodox Christian funeral and burial. I ask that I be buried in accordance with Holy Tradition and the teachings and values of the Orthodox Church.