New Hampshire Advance Health Care Directive

On this date of _____ , I, _____ , do hereby sign, execute, and adopt the following as my Advance Health Care Directive. I direct any and all persons or entities involved with my health care in any manner that these decisions are my wishes and were adopted without duress or force and of my own free will.
I have placed my initials next to the sections of this Directive that I have adopted:

[ ] Living Will Declaration
[ ] Selection of Health Care Agent (Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)
[ ] Designation of Primary Physician
[ ] Organ Donation

Living Will Declaration

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

If at any time I should have an incurable injury, disease, or illness certified to be a terminal condition or a permanently-unconscious condition by two (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 or that I will remain in a permanently-unconscious condition 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procedures would serve only to artificially prolong the dying process, I direct that such procedures be withheld or withdrawn, and that I be permitted to die naturally with only the administration of medication, sustenance, or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to provide me with comfort care.

I realize that situations could arise in which the only way to allow me to die would be to discontinue artificial nutrition and hydration.

In carrying out any instruction I have given under this section, I authorize that:
(initial your choice):

[ ] Artificial nutrition and hydration should NOT be started or, if started, be discontinued.
[ ] Artificial nutrition and hydration SHOULD be provided and not be removed.

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 physicians as the final expression of my right to refuse medical or surgical treatment and to accept the consequences of such refusal. I understand the full import of this declaration and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this declaration.

Selection of Health Care Agent
(Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT. BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU SHOULD KNOW THESE IMPORTANT FACTS:

Except to the extent you state otherwise, this document gives the person you name as your agent the authority to make any and all health care decisions for you when you are no longer capable of making them yourself. “”Health care’’ means any treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose or treat your physical or mental condition. Your agent, therefore, can have the power to make a broad range of health care decisions for you. Your agent may consent, refuse to consent, or withdraw consent to medical treatment and may make decisions about withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment. Your agent cannot consent or direct any of the following: commitment to a state institution, sterilization, or termination of treatment if you are pregnant and if the withdrawal of that treatment is deemed likely to terminate the pregnancy unless the failure to withhold the treatment will be physically harmful to you or prolong severe pain which cannot be alleviated by medication.

You may state in this document any treatment you do not desire, except as stated above, or treatment you want to be sure you receive. Your agent’s authority will begin when your doctor certifies that you lack the capacity to make health care decisions. If for moral or religious reasons you do not wish to be treated by a doctor or examined by a doctor for the certification that you lack capacity, you must say so in the document and name a person to be able to certify your lack of capacity. That person may not be your agent or alternate agent or any person ineligible to be your agent. You may attach additional pages if you need more space to complete your statement.

If you want to give your agent authority to withhold or withdraw the artificial providing of nutrition and fluids, your document must say so. Otherwise, your agent will not be able to direct that. Under no conditions will your agent be able to direct the withholding of food and drink for you to eat and drink normally.

Your agent will be obligated to follow your instructions when making decisions on your behalf. Unless you state otherwise, your agent will have the same authority to make decisions about your health care as you would have had if made consistent with state law.

It is important that you discuss this document with your physician or other health care providers before you sign it to make sure that you understand the nature and range of decisions which may be made on your behalf. If you do not have a physician, you should talk with someone else who is knowledgeable about these issues and can answer your questions. You do not need a lawyer’s assistance to complete this document, but if there is anything in this document that you do not understand, you should

ask a lawyer to explain it to you.

The person you appoint as agent should be someone you know and trust and must be at least 18 years old. If you appoint your health or residential care provider (e.g. your physician, or an employee of a home health agency, hospital, nursing home, or residential care home, other than a relative), that person will have to choose between acting as your agent or as your health or residential care provider; the law does not permit a person to do both at the same time.

You should inform the person you appoint that you want him or her to be your health care agent. You should discuss this document with your agent and your physician and give each a signed copy. You should indicate on the document itself the people and institutions who will have signed copies. Your agent will not be liable for health care decisions made in good faith on your behalf.

Even after you have signed this document, you have the right to make health care decisions for yourself as long as you are able to do so, and treatment cannot be given to you or stopped over your objection. You have the right to revoke the authority granted to your agent by informing him or her or your health care provider orally or in writing. This document may not be changed or modified. If you want to make changes in the document you must make an entirely new one.

You should consider designating an alternate agent in the event that your agent is unwilling, unable, unavailable, or ineligible to act as your agent. Any alternate agent you designate will have the same authority to make health care decisions for you.

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY WILL NOT BE VALID UNLESS IT IS SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO (2) OR MORE QUALIFIED WITNESSES WHO MUST BOTH BE PRESENT WHEN YOU SIGN AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SIGNATURE. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS MAY NOT ACT AS WITNESSES:

The person you have designated as your agent;
Your spouse;
Your lawful heirs or beneficiaries named in your will or a deed;

ONLY ONE OF THE TWO WITNESSES MAY BE YOUR HEALTH OR RESIDENTIAL CARE PROVIDER OR ONE OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

I hereby appoint _____ (name), of _____ (address), as my agent to make any and all health care decisions for me, except to the extent I state otherwise in this document or as prohibited by law. This durable power of attorney for health care shall take effect in the event I become unable to make my own health care decisions.

OPTIONAL - DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE AGENT: If I revoke my agent's authority or if my agent is not willing, able, or reasonably available to make a health care decision for me, I designate as my alternate agent

_____ (name of individual you choose as alternate agent)

_____ (address)

STATEMENT OF DESIRES, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AND LIMITATIONS REGARDING HEALTH CARE DECISIONS.

For your convenience in expressing your wishes, some general statements concerning the withholding or removal of life-sustaining treatment are set forth below. (Life-sustaining treatment is defined as procedures without which a person would die, such as, but not limited to the following: cardiopulmonary resuscitation, mechanical respiration, kidney dialysis or the use of other external mechanical and technological devices, drugs to maintain blood pressure, blood transfusions, and antibiotics.) There is also a section which allows you to set forth specific directions for these or other matters. If you wish, you may indicate your agreement or disagreement with any of the following statements and give your agent power to act in those specific circumstances.

(Initial your choices):

[ ] If I become permanently incompetent to make health care decisions, and if I am also suffering from a terminal illness, I authorize my agent to direct that life-sustaining treatment be discontinued.

[ ] Whether terminally ill or not, if I become permanently unconscious, I authorize my agent to direct that life-sustaining treatment be discontinued.

[ ] I realize that situations could arise in which the only way to allow me to die would be to discontinue artificial feeding (artificial nutrition and hydration).

In carrying out any instruction I have given under this section, I authorize that **(initial your choice): (If you fail to complete this section, your agent will not have the power to direct the withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration):**

[ ] Artificial nutrition and hydration should NOT be started or, if started, be discontinued.

[ ] Artificial nutrition and hydration SHOULD be provided and not be removed.

Here you may include any specific desires or limitations you deem appropriate, such as when or what life-sustaining treatment you would want used or withheld, or instructions about refusing any specific types of treatment that are inconsistent with your religious beliefs or unacceptable to you for any other reason. You may leave this question blank if you desire **(attach additional pages as necessary):**

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the disclosure statement contained in this document. The original of this document will be kept at the following address:

_____ and the following persons or institutions will have signed copies: _____.

Designation of Primary Physician

I designate the following physician as my primary physician: _____ (name)
_____ (address)
_____(phone).

OPTIONAL- DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE PRIMARY PHYSICIAN: If the physician I have designated above is not willing, able, or reasonably available to act as my primary physician, I designate the following physician as my primary physician:
_____ (name)
_____ (address)
_____(phone).

Organ Donation

In the event of my death, I have placed my initials next to the following part(s) of my body that I wish donated for the purposes **that I have initialed below:**

[ ] any organs or parts **OR**

[ ] eyes	[ ] bone and connective tissue	[ ] skin
[ ] heart	[ ] kidney(s)	[ ] liver
[ ] lung(s)	[ ] pancreas	[ ] other _____

for the purposes of:

[ ] any purpose authorized by law **OR**

[ ] transplantation	[ ] research	[ ] therapy
[ ] medical education	[ ] other limitations _____	

Signature

I sign this Advance Health Care Directive, consisting of the following sections, **which I have initialed below and have elected to adopt:**

[ ] Living Will Declaration
[ ] Selection of Health Care Agent (Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)
[ ] Designation of Primary Physician
[ ] Organ Donation

BY SIGNING HERE I INDICATE THAT I UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE AND EFFECT OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Signature _____ Date _____

City, County, and State of Residence _____

Notary Acknowledgment

State of _____
County of _____

On _____ , _____ came before me personally and, under oath, stated that he or she is the person described in the above document and he or she signed the above document in my presence. I declare under penalty of perjury that the person whose name is subscribed to this instrument appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence.

_____
Notary Public
My commission expires _____

Witness Acknowledgment

The declarant is personally known to me and I believe him or her to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence. I did not sign the declarant's signature above for or at the direction of the declarant and I am not appointed as the health care agent or attorney-in-fact herein. I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and I am not related to the declarant by blood, adoption, or marriage, entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarant according to the laws of intestate succession or under any will of declarant or codicil thereto, or directly financially responsible for declarant's medical care. **The first witness is not a health care provider of the declarant or an employee of the health facility in which the declarant is a patient.**

Witness Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Witness _____

Second Witness Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Second Witness _____

Acceptance of Health Care Agent and Attorney-in-Fact for Health Care

I accept my appointment as Health Care Agent and Attorney-in-Fact for Health Care:

Signature _____ Date _____

I accept my appointment as Alternate Health Care Agent and Attorney-in-Fact for Health Care:

Signature _____ Date _____