

Georgia Advance Directive for Health Care

By: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Print Name) (Month/Day/Year)

This advance directive for health care has four parts:

PART ONE—Health Care Agent. This part allows you to choose someone to make health care decisions for you when you cannot (or do not want to) make health care decisions for yourself. The person you choose is called a health care agent. You may also have your health care agent make decisions for you after your death with respect to an autopsy, organ donation, body donation, and final disposition of your body. You should talk to your health care agent about this important role.

PART TWO—Treatment Preferences. This part allows you to state your treatment preferences if you have a terminal condition or if you are in a state of permanent unconsciousness. PART TWO will become effective only if you are unable to communicate your treatment preferences. Reasonable and appropriate efforts will be made to communicate with you about your treatment preferences before PART TWO becomes effective. You should talk to your family and others close to you about your treatment preferences.

PART THREE—Guardianship. This part allows you to nominate a person to be your guardian should one ever be needed.

PART FOUR—Effectiveness and Signatures. This part requires your signature and the signatures of two witnesses. You must complete PART FOUR if you have filled out any other part of this form. You may fill out any or all of the first three parts listed above. You must fill out PART FOUR of this form in order for this form to be effective. You should give a copy of this completed form to people who might need it, such as your health care agent, your family, and your physician. Keep a copy of this completed form at home in a place where it can easily be found if it is needed. Review this completed form periodically to make sure it still reflects your preferences. If your preferences change, complete a new advance directive for health care. Using this form of advance directive for health care is completely optional. Other forms of advance directives for health care may be used in Georgia. You may revoke this completed form at any time. This completed form will replace any advance directive for health care, durable power of attorney for health care, health care proxy, or living will that you have completed before completing this form.

PART ONE—Health Care Agent

PART ONE will be effective even if PART TWO is not completed. A physician or health care provider who is directly involved in your health care may not serve as your health care agent. If you are married, a future divorce or annulment of your marriage will revoke the selection of your current spouse as your health care agent. If you are not married, a future marriage will revoke the selection of your health care agent unless the person you selected as your health care agent is your new spouse.

1. Health Care Agent

I select the following person as my health care agent to make health care decisions for me:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone Numbers: _____
(Home) (Work) (Mobile)

4. Guidance for Health Care Agent

When making health care decisions for me, my health care agent should think about what action would be consistent with past conversations we have had, my treatment preferences as expressed in PART TWO (if I have filled out PART TWO), my religious and other beliefs and values, and how I have handled medical and other important issues in the past. If what I would decide is still unclear, then my health care agent should make decisions for me that my health care agent believes are in my best interest, considering the benefits, burdens, and risks of my current circumstances and treatment options.

5. Powers of Health Care Agent After Death

(A) AUTOPSY

My health care agent will have the power to authorize an autopsy of my body unless I have limited my health care agent's power by initialing below.

_____ (Initials) My health care agent will not have the power to authorize an autopsy of my body (unless an autopsy is required by law).

(B) ORGAN DONATION AND DONATION OF BODY

My health care agent will have the power to make a disposition of any part or all of my body for medical purposes pursuant to the Georgia Anatomical Gift Act, unless I have limited my health care agent's power by initialing below.

Initial each statement that you want to apply.

_____ (Initials) My health care agent will not have the power to make a disposition of my body for use in a medical study program.

_____ (Initials) My health care agent will not have the power to donate any of my organs.

(C) FINAL DISPOSITION OF BODY

My health care agent will have the power to make decisions about the final disposition of my body unless I have initialed below.

_____ (Initials) I want the following person to make decisions about the final disposition of my body:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numbers: _____ (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Mobile)

I wish for my body to be:

_____ (Initials) **Buried**

_____ (Initials) **Cremated**

PART TWO—Treatment Preferences

PART TWO will be effective only if you are unable to communicate your treatment preferences after reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to communicate with you about your treatment preferences. PART TWO will be effective even if PART ONE is not completed. If you have not selected a health care agent in PART ONE, or if your health care agent is not available, then PART TWO will provide your physician and other health care providers with your treatment preferences. If you have selected a health care agent in PART ONE, then your health care agent will have the authority to make all health care decisions for you regarding matters covered by PART TWO. Your health care agent will be guided by your treatment preferences and other factors described in Section (4) of PART ONE.

6. Conditions

PART TWO will be effective if I am in any of the following conditions:

Initial each condition in which you want PART TWO to be effective.

_____ (Initials) **A terminal condition, which means I have an incurable or irreversible condition that will result in my death in a relatively short period of time.**

_____ (Initials) **A state of permanent unconsciousness, which means I am in an incurable or irreversible condition in which I am not aware of myself or my environment and I show no behavioral response to my environment.**

My condition will be determined in writing after personal examination by my attending physician and a second physician in accordance with currently accepted medical standards.

7. Treatment Preferences

State your treatment preference by initialing (A), (B), or (C). If you choose (C), state your additional treatment preferences by initialing one or more of the statements following (C). You may provide additional instructions about your treatment preferences in the next section. You will be provided with comfort care, including pain relief, but you may also want to state your specific preferences regarding pain relief in the next section.

If I am in any condition that I initialed in Section (6) above and I can no longer communicate my treatment preferences after reasonable and appropriate efforts have been made to communicate with me about my treatment preferences, then:

(A) _____ (Initials) **Try to extend my life for as long as possible, using all medications, machines, or other medical procedures that in reasonable medical judgment could keep me alive. If I am unable to take nutrition or fluids by mouth, then I want to receive nutrition or fluids by tube or other medical means.**

OR

(B) _____ (Initials) **Allow my natural death to occur. I do not want any medications, machines, or other medical procedures that in reasonable medical judgment could keep me alive but cannot cure me. I do not want to receive nutrition or fluids by tube or other medical means except as needed to provide pain medication.**

OR

(C) _____ (Initials) **I do not want any medications, machines, or other medical procedures that in reasonable medical judgment could keep me alive but cannot cure me, except as follows:**

Initial each statement that you want to apply to option (C).

_____ (Initials) **If I am unable to take nutrition by mouth, I want to receive nutrition by tube or other medical means.**

_____ (Initials) **If I am unable to take fluids by mouth, I want to receive fluids by tube or other medical means.**

_____ (Initials) **If I need assistance to breathe, I want to have a ventilator used.**

_____ (Initials) **If my heart or pulse has stopped, I want to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) used.**

8. Additional Statements

This section is optional. PART TWO will be effective even if this section is left blank. This section allows you to state additional treatment preferences, to provide additional guidance to your health care agent (if you have selected a health care agent in PART ONE), or to provide information about your personal and religious values about your medical treatment. For example, you may want to state your treatment preferences regarding medications to fight infection, surgery, amputation, blood transfusion, or kidney dialysis. Understanding that you cannot foresee everything that could happen to you after you can no longer communicate your treatment preferences, you may want to provide guidance to your health care agent (if you have selected a health care agent in PART ONE) about following your treatment preferences. You may want to state your specific preferences regarding pain relief.

9. In Case of Pregnancy

PART TWO will be effective even if this section is left blank.

I understand that under Georgia law, PART TWO generally will have no force and effect if I am pregnant unless the fetus is not viable and I indicate by initialing below that I want PART TWO to be carried out.

_____ (Initials) **I want PART TWO to be carried out if my fetus is not viable.**

PART THREE—Guardianship

10. Guardianship

PART THREE is optional. This advance directive for health care will be effective even if PART THREE is left blank. If you wish to nominate a person to be your guardian in the event a court decides that a guardian should be appointed, complete PART THREE. A court will appoint a guardian for you if the court finds that you are not able to make significant responsible decisions for yourself regarding your personal support, safety, or welfare. A court will appoint the person nominated by you if the court finds that the appointment will serve your best interest and welfare. If you have selected a health care agent in PART ONE, you may (but are not required to) nominate the same person to be your guardian. If your health care agent and guardian are not the same person, your health care agent will have priority over your guardian in making your health care decisions, unless a court determines otherwise.

State your preference by initialing (A) or (B). Choose (A) only if you have also completed PART ONE.

(A) _____ (Initials) **I nominate the person serving as my health care agent under PART ONE to serve as my guardian.**

OR

(B) _____ (Initials) **I nominate the following person to serve as my guardian:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Numbers: _____
(Home) (Work) (Mobile)

PART FOUR—Effectiveness and Signatures

This advance directive for health care will become effective only if I am unable or choose not to make or communicate my own health care decisions.

This form revokes any advance directive for health care, durable power of attorney for health care, health care proxy, or living will that I have completed before this date.

Unless I have initialed below and have provided alternative future dates or events, this advance directive for health care will become effective at the time I sign it and will remain effective until my death (and after my death to the extent authorized in Section (5) of PART ONE).

_____ (Initials) This advance directive for health care will become effective on or upon _____
and will terminate on or upon _____.

You must sign and date or acknowledge signing and dating this form in the presence of two witnesses. Both witnesses must be of sound mind and must be at least 18 years of age, but the witnesses do not have to be together or present with you when you sign this form.

A witness:

- Cannot be a person who was selected to be your health care agent or back-up health care agent in PART ONE;
- Cannot be a person who will knowingly inherit anything from you or otherwise knowingly gain a financial benefit from your death; or
- Cannot be a person who is directly involved in your health care.

Only one of the witnesses may be an employee, agent, or medical staff member of the hospital, skilled nursing facility, hospice, or other health care facility in which you are receiving health care (but this witness cannot be directly involved in your health care).

By signing below, I state that I am emotionally and mentally capable of making this advance directive for health care and that I understand its purpose and effect.

(Signature of Declarant)

(Date)

The declarant signed this form in my presence or acknowledged signing this form to me. Based upon my personal observation, the declarant appeared to be emotionally and mentally capable of making this advance directive for health care and signed this form willingly and voluntarily.

(Signature of First Witness)

(Date)

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

(Signature of Second Witness)

(Date)

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

****This form does not need to be notarized.***

Definitions:

'**Advance directive for health care**' means a written document voluntarily executed by a declarant in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 31-32-5.

'**Attending physician**' means the physician who has primary responsibility at the time of reference for the treatment and care of the declarant.

'**Declarant**' means a person who has executed an advance directive for health care authorized by this chapter.

'**Durable power of attorney for health care**' means a written document voluntarily executed by an individual creating a health care agency in accordance with Chapter 36 of this title; as such chapter existed on and before June 30, 2007.

'**Health care**' means any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, treat, or provide for a declarant's physical or mental health or personal care.

'**Health care agent**' means a person appointed by a declarant to act for and on behalf of the declarant to make decisions related to consent, refusal, or withdrawal of any type of health care and decisions related to autopsy, anatomical gifts, and final disposition of a declarant's body when a declarant is unable or chooses not to make health care decisions for himself or herself. The term 'health care agent' shall include any back-up or successor agent appointed by the declarant.

'**Health care facility**' means a hospital, skilled nursing facility, hospice, institution, home, residential or nursing facility, treatment facility, and any other facility or service which has a valid permit or provisional permit issued under Chapter 7 of this title or which is licensed, accredited, or approved under the laws of any state, and includes hospitals operated by the United States government or by any state or subdivision thereof.

'**Health care provider**' means the attending physician and any other person administering health care to the declarant at the time of reference who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care in the ordinary course of business or the practice of a profession, including any person employed by or acting for any such authorized person.

'**Life-sustaining procedures**' means medications, machines, or other medical procedures or interventions which, when applied to a declarant in a terminal condition or in a state of permanent unconsciousness, could in reasonable medical judgment keep the declarant alive but cannot cure the declarant and where, in the judgment of the attending physician and a second physician, death will occur without such procedures or interventions. The term 'life-sustaining procedures' shall not include the provision of nourishment or hydration but a declarant may direct the withholding or withdrawal of the provision of nourishment or hydration in an advance directive for health care. The term 'life-sustaining procedures' shall not include the administration of medication to alleviate pain or the performance of any medical procedure deemed necessary to alleviate pain.

'**Living will**' means a written document voluntarily executed by an individual directing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures when an individual is in a terminal condition, coma, or persistent vegetative state in accordance with this chapter, as such chapter existed on and before June 30, 2007.

'**Physician**' means a person lawfully licensed in this state to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and if the declarant is receiving health care in another state, a person lawfully licensed in such state.

'**Provision of nourishment or hydration**' means the provision of nutrition or fluids by tube or other medical means.

'**State of permanent unconsciousness**' means an incurable or irreversible condition in which the declarant is not aware of himself or herself or his or her environment and in which the declarant is showing no behavioral response to his or her environment.

'**Terminal condition**' means an incurable or irreversible condition which would result in the declarant's death in a relatively short period of time.