

Dear Friend,

The language of the Advance Directive was established by the Oregon legislature so that individuals may have a uniform and legally effective way to communicate their health care wishes. Although no one is required by law to complete an Advance Directive, you may find it useful to do so, especially to make clear your desire for Christian Science care. Those individuals receiving ongoing Christian Science nursing through Canterbury Crest, Inc., are required to have an Advance Directive as a protection to all parties concerned.

Before you begin filling out your Advance Directive form, please read carefully this letter, the Advance Directive form, and the optional Addendum A. If you have questions, you are welcome to call the Canterbury Crest administrative office at 503-464-6740 or consult with an attorney of your choice.

THE OREGON ADVANCE DIRECTIVE FORM (ORS 127.531)

PART A: Important Information about this Advance Directive

Part A explains the document's purpose and legal effect. After you have read it, and when you are ready to proceed, write your personal information in the spaces provided. Be sure to select (by initialing, not checking) the length of time that you wish the Advance Directive to be valid.

PART B: Appointment of Health Care Representative

Part B takes the place of the old Power of Attorney for Health Care form. Select one or two people to be your Health Care Representative(s) whom you trust to carry out your health care wishes. Once they have agreed to serve in this capacity, put their names and personal information in the spaces provided.

If you wish to receive Christian Science care exclusively as outlined in Addendum A, or if you write your own addendum, make reference to the addendum in item 1 of PART B as a special condition or instruction: "See attached Addendum A."

Whether you are using an addendum or not, if you are giving any health care instructions in Part C, be sure to indicate that by initialing item 1 of Part B.

Items 2 and 3 of Part B define "life support" and "tube feeding." If you want your health care representative to be able to follow your instructions and decide about life support and tube feeding for you, you should initial items 2 and 3. If you give instructions regarding life support and tube feeding in Part C, your health care representative must follow your instructions. If you don't give instructions, your health care representative will do what he or she thinks is in your best interest.

To appoint your Health Care Representative(s), you must sign and date the bottom of Part B. You may either sign and date in front of your witnesses (See Part D) or, after you have signed, "acknowledge" your signature by telling your witnesses that the signature on Part B is yours.

PART C: Health Care Instructions

Part C of the Advance Directive form assumes that the person signing it is under medical care. As a Christian Scientist, you are entirely free to choose any kind of care you wish. If you expect to be under medical care, the assumptions of Part C may be appropriate. If, on the other hand, you wish to have only Christian Science care, or limit the role of medical personnel, you may do so in item 6 of Part C, which allows you to write your own instructions both to your Health Care Representative and to health care providers. Addendum A, which we have provided, is an example of such instructions, and you are welcome to use some or all or none of it. You are also free to write your own instructions or modify Addendum A however you choose.

Before filling out any of Part C, read the note at the beginning and items 1-5 carefully. Note that the instructions in items 1-5 apply only if two physicians confirm that you are in the medical condition described in the item. A medical diagnosis is therefore required before your instructions take effect.

If you do not wish to be subject to the determinations of physicians, you may ignore items 1-4 of Part C and use the opportunity given in item 6 to write your own instructions. Some Christian Scientists choose to initial item 5. If left as written in the form, the instruction in item 5 to refuse life support and tube feeding is still subject to the determination of two physicians. An option might be to leave the first two sentences of item 5 as written and to cross out the third sentence, which would imply you do not want the judgment of physicians to be necessary to your decision. Stating that explicitly in item 6 might make this choice clearer.

If you decide to use Addendum A or any other instructions you have written, be sure to attach the document to the Advance Directive form and reference it both in Part B, item 1, and in Part C, item 6 (“See attached Addendum A”). It is also wise to sign and date your addendum and have your witnesses sign and date it as well; page 2 of Addendum A provides an example.

Item 7 of Part C asks if you have previously signed a Health Care Power of Attorney. The purpose of the question is to determine whether any other document is still in force which would provide further evidence of your wishes in regard to health care. You should initial the best answer. If you wish your Advance Directive to stand alone in expressing your desires, you should probably initial either the second or third choice.

As with Part B, you may either sign and date Part C in front of your witnesses or, after you have signed, “acknowledge” your signature by telling your witnesses that the signature on Part C is yours.

PART D: Declaration of Witnesses

Choose your witnesses carefully! For each witness, items a. through e. of Part D must be true. In addition, there are other requirements that apply to only one of the witnesses. Those requirements are listed in the note under the witness signature lines. Be sure that one of your witnesses meets all of those requirements as well.

Following the instructions on the form, have each witness sign and date and print their names as indicated, after they have watched you sign the form under Parts B and C, or heard you acknowledge your signatures on Parts B and C. If you are using Addendum A or your own addendum, have your witnesses sign and date that document as well.

PART E

Your appointed Health Care Representative(s) must sign and print their names, indicating by their signatures that they agree to represent you in this way. If they are too far from you to sign the original of the document, they may sign and return a faxed or emailed copy. If they become unavailable in the future, or tell you they no longer wish to serve, you should find new representatives and execute a new Advance Directive.

CONCLUSION

This letter is intended to assist Christian Scientists in navigating the Oregon Advance Directive form. **It does not, however, constitute legal advice, and readers are encouraged, if they have questions concerning the effectiveness of a particular use or modification of the form, to consult an attorney of their choice.**

Copies of the form and the optional Addendum A are available on the Canterbury Crest website, www.canterburycrest.org.

Once an Advance Directive is completed, both the person completing it and his or her Health Care Representatives should keep a copy in a safe but readily accessible place. In addition, it is wise to carry in a wallet or purse a card that states who one's health care representative is and how that person may be contacted. Emergency response personnel are trained to look for such information, which is often found on a card labeled ICE (In Case of Emergency). Business-sized cards which can be filled in with such information are available from Canterbury Crest and on this website.

Canterbury Crest also maintains a confidential file of current Advance Directives for individuals who, if circumstances require, might wish to receive Christian Science nursing care from our nurses or at our Guest House. You are welcome to add a copy of yours to our file if you so desire, and of course you may also remove it at any time if you wish.

A Christian Science nurse is always available by phone at (503) 639-7661 or toll-free at (866) 639-7661. Please do not hesitate to call. We don't charge for telephone advice or on-site assessments and will be most happy to lovingly, prayerfully and practically assist in meeting your need.

Sincerely,

David McNeil
Executive Director
Canterbury Crest, Inc.