

# OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS (General Edition)

Note: These are not legally binding, but may be useful in directing your agent and loved ones

*(Please turn to the next page)*

## LETTER TO MY AGENT (SAMPLE)

If you are reading this, it probably means that I am unable to make healthcare decisions for myself. Please know that I picked you as an agent because I trust you and I know that you will do the best you can. My Advance Directive and Health Care Power of Attorney tries to address the issues you might face when making decisions for me. There is language in there about the kind of care I want if I cannot make decisions for myself. I hope this document will give you some guidance.

The main principle to follow is to weigh the benefit of a proposed treatment with the burdens of that treatment (to me, the patient) when making decisions. Please give me food and water unless it's truly burdensome to me and/or my body cannot assimilate it. Everyone needs food and water to live, even if it's administered "artificially" (i.e. orally, intravenously, by tube, or other means, etc.)

I strongly believe in pro-life principles and do not want anything done to hasten my death, but I also understand that some pain medications might have the *unintended* effect of shortening my life. Again, please take a look at my *Advance Directive and Health Care Power of Attorney* for more information to help you make decisions.

If it looks like I am at the end of my earthly life, please do your best to ensure that I receive the appropriate care from my minister or an appropriate chaplain. Read to me from Sacred Scripture and pray with and for me. Helping me with my spiritual needs is probably the most important thing you can do for me!

I have attached some additional resources and people you can contact to assist you if you need help making decisions.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you. Ask God to grant me a peaceful death and thank you for all your love and care for me.

## MY SPIRITUAL/RELIGIOUS NEEDS

If I am in a terminal condition or death is imminent, I ask that I be told of this so that I might prepare myself for death, and I ask for the following if possible (*please initial all those that apply*):

*Initial below*

	Please call my Church: _____ or minister: _____
	I would like this prayer, service, or blessing: _____
	Please read to me from my Bible or appropriate sermons (_____)
	I would like all reasonable steps to be taken to allow me to see my family.
	If possible, I would like to die at home, or at least in a hospice that has the appearance of a home setting.
	Additional Request:
	Additional Request:

My favorite prayers are:

My favorite readings are:

# OTHER INSTRUCTIONS

*(please initial all those that apply):*

*Initial below*

	My church affiliation is <i>(insert name and phone #)</i> :
	I want my funeral to include a specific type of service at my church. <i>(Note: It is wise to do funeral planning with your church to ensure that you will receive this. Not all traditions have a set rite.)</i>
	I have already made arrangements for my funeral with: <i>(Name funeral home and/or Church)</i> :
	The funeral home I wish to care for my arrangements is <i>(Name funeral home)</i> :
	I wish to be buried
	If burial, what cemetery? <i>(Name cemetery)</i> :
	I own a burial plot at that cemetery <i>(Mark your response)</i> : <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	I would like my body to be cremated with burial to follow.
	I would like an open casket if it is possible.
	I do not want an open casket.

Other wishes/special instructions:

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The name, address and phone number of the attorney who has a copy of my Last Will and Testament is:

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Optional – I have a will and the executor of my estate is: \_\_\_\_\_

## RESOURCES AND PEOPLE TO CALL

If you need help on making a good prudential judgment on how to care for me, these are the people/places I would go to if I was facing end of life decisions for a loved one:

*Consider pro-life doctors that you know and trust that could be consulted. List their name and contact information.*

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*Consider your pastor or other ministers that you know who could assist you when needed. List their name and contact information.*

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*(More resources are on the next page.)*

