

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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January 1, 2010

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Revised DPA cards

Dear Brothers:

Because of recent changes to the advance directive laws in the United States, revisions have been made to the durable power of attorney (DPA) cards for every state except Oregon. Thus, an allotment of revised DPA cards will soon be sent to congregations. All blank DPA cards with a revision date of November 2004 or earlier should be removed from the congregation file and be replaced with the revised cards upon their arrival.

The changes to the advance directive laws in the 16 states listed on page 2 of this letter are significant enough that publishers living in those states are strongly encouraged to execute new DPA cards. Doing so is critical to such publishers' wishes being respected regarding medical decisions, since older DPA cards for those 16 states are not in accord with current law. If publishers in your congregation live in one of those states, the following announcement should be made during the Service Meeting part held during the week of January 25, 2010: **“All publishers who live in the state(s) of [name state(s) from the list on page 2 where your publishers live] are urged to complete a new durable power of attorney (DPA) card. Doing so is critical to your medical wishes being respected, since cards executed with a revision date of November 2004 or older are being replaced with cards prepared in accordance with current law.”** Elders in congregations in the 16 states listed on page 2 should see to it that new cards with a revision date of January 2010 are available following this announcement and that elderly publishers and those not present to hear the announcement receive the assistance they need in order to execute the revised card.

**Although congregations in every state except Oregon will receive revised DPA cards, only publishers living in states listed on page 2 of this letter need to execute new cards.** If no publishers in your congregation live in the states listed on page 2, there is no need to make the announcement previously noted. Congregations will receive new DPA cards based on the state in which they are located. (Congregations in the states other than those listed on page 2 will likely not receive the revised cards before the Service Meeting part held during the week of January 25, 2010.) However, please keep in mind that congregations located near the borders of two states may have publishers living in more than one state. In such cases, the elders should be alert to request a supply of the new card for the appropriate state from the Shipping Department by using the [jw.org](http://jw.org) Web site.

As a reminder, publishers should adhere to the following instructions when preparing their DPA cards. First, a publisher should fill out his entire DPA card (including the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of his health-care agents) before signing the DPA card. Second, a publisher should sign his DPA card in the presence of two witnesses. Third, a publisher's

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health-care agents should not sign as witnesses to the publisher's DPA card. Adhering to these instructions will help to avoid unnecessary challenges to the legal validity of a publisher's DPA card.

We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,  
*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

**States with significant changes to the DPA card:**

Connecticut  
Georgia  
Idaho  
Indiana  
Michigan  
New Hampshire  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Oklahoma  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Utah  
Vermont  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming