Medical Power of Attorney and Advanced Healthcare Directive
of
[NAME OF PRINCIPAL]

****

Medical Power of Attorney
of
[NAME OF PRINCIPAL]

Table of Contents

Article One Recitals 1

Section 1.01 Designation of Healthcare Agent 1

Section 1.02 Designation of Primary Physician 1

Section 1.03 Duration 2

Section 1.04 General Grant 2

Section 1.05 Pregnancy 2

Section 1.06 Effect on Legal Capacity 2

Article Two Health and Personal Powers 2

Section 2.01 Instructions Concerning Medical Evaluations and Treatment 2

Section 2.02 Longterm or Hospice Care 3

Section 2.03 Maintain Me in My Residence 3

Section 2.04 Medical Information and Medical Records 4

Section 2.05 Employ and Discharge Health Care Personnel 4

Section 2.06 Pain Relief 4

Section 2.07 Consent to Psychiatric Treatment 4

Section 2.08 Grant Releases 5

Section 2.09 Living Will 5

Section 2.10 Anatomical Gifts for Transplant or Research Purposes 5

Section 2.11 Autopsy and Disposition of Remains 5

Article Three Legal and Administrative Powers and Provisions 6

Section 3.01 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 6

Section 3.02 Guardian 6

Section 3.03 Third-Party Reliance 6

Section 3.04 Enforcement by Healthcare Agent 7

Section 3.05 Release of Healthcare Agent’s Personal Liability 7

Section 3.06 Reimbursement of Healthcare Agent 7

Section 3.07 Copies Effective as Originals 7

Section 3.08 Interstate Enforceability 7

Section 3.09 Amendment and Revocation 7

Section 3.10 Revocation of Prior Powers 8

Article Four Definitions 8

Section 4.01 Shall and May 8

1. Medical Power of Attorney
of
[NAME OF PRINCIPAL]

I, [NAME OF PRINCIPAL], the principal, an adult of sound mind, execute this Medical Power of Attorney freely and voluntarily, with an understanding of its purposes and consequences. I intend to create a medical durable power of attorney under the laws of the State of Alabama. I further intend to demonstrate my wishes concerning medical treatment with clear and convincing evidence. I hereby revoke any Medical Power of Attorney previously granted by me as principal except powers granted by me under any state statutory Medical Power of Attorney.

# Recitals

## Designation of Healthcare Agent

I designate the individuals named below as my Healthcare Agents, each of whom is individually referred to in this instrument as my Healthcare Agent. I give my Healthcare Agent the power to make decisions and to act alone or jointly with regard to my health care if I am unable to make my own health care decisions.

Name: [NAME OF AGENT]

Address:

Phone:

Name: [NAME OF AGENT]

Address:

Phone:

## Designation of Primary Physician

I designate the physician named below as my primary physician.

Name: [NAME OF PHYSICIAN]

Address:

Phone:

Name: [NAME OF PHYSICIAN]

Address:

Phone:

## Duration

This Medical Power of Attorney expires at the earliest of:

my death (except for post-death matters allowed under [State]law); or

my revocation of this Medical Power of Attorney.

However, the medical information and medical records provisions described in Section 2.04 continue in effect for an additional 24 months from the date of my death unless revoked. My Healthcare Agent’s authority does not terminate if I become disabled or incapacitated.

## General Grant

My Healthcare Agent may determine and implement all actions necessary for my personal care, residential placement, and medical treatment, including the items specifically mentioned in this instrument. If my Healthcare Agent is not available, I intend to guide decisions about my care and treatment with the following statements.

## Pregnancy

My Agent may make health care decisions for me even if my Agent knows that I am pregnant.

## Effect on Legal Capacity

A formal adjudication of my incapacity is not required for my Healthcare Agent to exercise the authority granted by me under this instrument.

# Health and Personal Powers

## Instructions Concerning Medical Evaluations and Treatment

In exercising the authority granted to my Healthcare Agent, I instruct my Healthcare Agent to discuss with me the specifics of any proposed decision regarding my medical care and treatment if I am able to communicate in any manner however rudimentary, even by blinking my eyes. I further instruct my Healthcare Agent that if I am unable to give an informed consent to medical treatment, my Healthcare Agent shall give or withhold consent based upon any treatment choices I have expressed while competent, whether under this instrument or otherwise. If my Healthcare Agent cannot determine the treatment choice I would want made under the circumstances, then I request that my Healthcare Agent make the choice for me based upon what my Healthcare Agent believes to be in my best interests. I request that my Healthcare Agent’s decision be guided by taking into account:

the provisions of this instrument;

any preferences that I may have expressed on the subject;

what my Healthcare Agent believes I would want done in the circumstances if I were able to express myself; and

any information given to my Healthcare Agent by the physicians treating me as to my medical diagnosis and prognosis and the intrusiveness, pain, risks, and side effects of the treatment.

I want to leave my family, friends, and persons who care about me with assurances of my love, and without the burdens of guilt or conflict. My purposes in leaving these instructions are to alleviate uncertainty that otherwise may arise in connection with decisions about my medical care, to promote family harmony, and to clarify instructions to my health care providers. My Healthcare Agent’s authority to act on my behalf concerning my medical care includes decisions concerning artificial life support, medical treatment, surgery and other medical procedures; artificial nourishment and hydration; resuscitation decisions (including Do Not Resuscitate [DNR] orders and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] directives); amputation of my limbs; blood transfusions; experimental drugs and medical procedures; the administration of pharmaceutical agents; arrangements for my longterm care.

I affirm my belief in the importance and value of my personal dignity, both in living and in dying.

## Longterm or Hospice Care

My Healthcare Agent may select a facility for my nursing, convalescent, or hospice care and establish my residence and placement in a secure unit therein if the facility provides the quality of care appropriate for my medical needs and mental condition. For the purposes of arranging or providing longterm care, my Healthcare Agent has authority to facilitate my transportation and establish my legal residence within or beyond the state of Alabama.

## Maintain Me in My Residence

I authorize my Healthcare Agent to take whatever steps are necessary or advisable to enable me to remain in my personal residence as long as it is reasonable under the circumstances. I realize that my health may deteriorate so that it becomes necessary to have round-the-clock nursing care if I am to remain in my personal residence, and I direct my Healthcare Agent to obtain that care, including any equipment that might assist in my care, as is reasonable under the circumstances. Specifically, I do not want to be hospitalized or put in a convalescent or similar home as long as it is reasonable to maintain me in my personal residence.

## Medical Information and Medical Records

Acting on my behalf, my Healthcare Agent may have access to all of my medical information and photocopies of my medical records from my health care providers including physicians, dentists, podiatrists, physical therapists, chiropractic physicians and chiropractors, pharmacists, optometrists, psychologists, social workers, hospitals, hospices, and other treatment facilities; may disclose medical and related information concerning my treatment to appropriate health care providers; and may admit or transfer me to such hospitals, hospices, or treatment facilities as my Healthcare Agent determines to be in my best interests.

In order for my Healthcare Agent to fulfill his or her duties, my treating physician or hospital is to discuss my medical condition with and disclose all medical records to my Healthcare Agent.

## Employ and Discharge Health Care Personnel

My Healthcare Agent may employ and discharge medical personnel including physicians, psychiatrists, dentists, nurses, and therapists as my Healthcare Agent determines necessary for my physical, mental, and emotional well-being, and pay them reasonable compensation.

## Pain Relief

I want to ensure that my Healthcare Agent and physician protect my comfort and freedom from pain insofar as possible. I authorize my Healthcare Agent to consent on my behalf to the administration of whatever pain-relieving drugs and pain-relieving surgical procedures my Healthcare Agent, upon medical advice, believes may provide comfort to me, even though such drugs or procedures may lead to pharmaceutical addictions, lower blood pressure, lower levels of breathing, or hasten my death. Even if artificial life support or aggressive medical treatment has been withdrawn or refused, I want to be kept as comfortable as possible, and I do not want to be neglected by medical or nursing staff.

## Consent to Psychiatric Treatment

Upon the execution of a certificate by two independent psychiatrists who have examined me and in whose opinions I am in immediate need of hospitalization because of mental disorders, alcoholism, or drug abuse, my Healthcare Agent may arrange for my voluntary admission to an appropriate hospital or institution for treatment of the diagnosed problem or disorder; to arrange for private psychiatric and psychological treatment for me; and to revoke, modify, withdraw, or change consent to the hospitalization, institutionalization, or private treatment that I or my Healthcare Agent may have previously given. The consent of my Healthcare Agent to my hospitalization for psychiatric help, alcoholism, or drug abuse has the same legal effect, subject to applicable local law, as a voluntary admission made by me.

## Grant Releases

My Healthcare Agent may grant, in conjunction with any instructions given under this instrument, releases from all liability for damages suffered or to be suffered by me to hospital staff, physicians, nurses, and other medical and hospital administrative personnel who act in reliance on instructions given by my Healthcare Agent or who render written opinions to my Healthcare Agent in connection with any matter described in this instrument. My Healthcare Agent may sign documents titled or purporting to be a *Refusal to Permit Treatment* and *Leaving Hospital Against Medical Advice* as well as any necessary waivers of or releases from liability required by any hospital or physician to implement my wishes regarding medical treatment or nontreatment.

## Living Will

I have executed a Living Will under the laws of the state of [enter state]. To the extent that any provisions of this Medical Power of Attorney conflict with my Living Will, the provisions of my Medical Power of Attorney will prevail, and the decisions of my Healthcare Agent will be honored.

If I become unconscious or incompetent in a state where my Living Will or this Medical Power of Attorney is not enforceable, I authorize my Healthcare Agent to transport me or arrange for my transportation to a jurisdiction where my medical directives will be enforceable.

## Anatomical Gifts for Transplant or Research Purposes

After my death, my Healthcare Agent may make anatomical gifts on my behalf to the persons and organizations my Healthcare Agent chooses for the limited purposes of transplantation and medical research. My Healthcare Agent may execute the papers and act as necessary, appropriate, incidental, or convenient in connection with these gifts.

## Autopsy and Disposition of Remains

My Healthcare Agent may authorize an autopsy and direct the disposition of my remains.

# Legal and Administrative Powers and Provisions

## Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

I grant my Healthcare Agent the power and authority to serve as my authorized recipient for all purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 and its regulations immediately upon my signing this document.

Pursuant to HIPAA, I specifically authorize my Healthcare Agent as my HIPAA-authorized recipient to request, receive, and review any information regarding my physical health, including all HIPAA-protected health information, medical, and hospital records; to execute on my behalf any authorizations, releases, or other documents that may be required to obtain this information; and to consent to the disclosure of this information. I further authorize my Healthcare Agent to execute on my behalf valid authorizations for the release of HIPAA-protected health information.

By signing this Medical Power of Attorney, I specifically authorize my physician, hospital, or health care provider to release any medical records to my Healthcare Agent or any person designated in a valid authorization for the release of HIPAA-protected health information executed by my Healthcare Agent. Further, I waive any liability to any physician, hospital, or health care provider that releases any of my medical records to my Healthcare Agent and acknowledge that the health information that would otherwise be protected under HIPAA will no longer be protected.

## Guardian

My Healthcare Agent’s authority precludes the need for appointment of a Guardian. But if any proceeding is commenced for the appointment of a Guardian, I nominate my Healthcare Agent to serve as Guardian.

## Third-Party Reliance

My Healthcare Agent’s instructions and decisions regarding my medical treatment are binding on third parties. No person, medical facility, or institution will incur any liability to me or to my estate by complying with my Healthcare Agent’s instructions. My Healthcare Agent is authorized to execute consents, waivers, and releases of liability on my behalf and on behalf of my estate to all medical personnel who comply with my Healthcare Agent’s instructions. Furthermore, I authorize my Healthcare Agent to indemnify and hold harmless, at my expense, any third party who accepts and acts under this Medical Power of Attorney, and I agree to be bound by any indemnity entered into by my Healthcare Agent.

## Enforcement by Healthcare Agent

I authorize my Healthcare Agent to seek on my behalf and at my expense:

a declaratory judgment from any court of competent jurisdiction interpreting the validity of this instrument or any of the acts authorized by this instrument, but a declaratory judgment is not required for my Healthcare Agent to perform any act authorized by this instrument;

an injunction requiring compliance with my Healthcare Agent’s instructions by any person providing medical or personal care to me; or

actual and punitive damages against any person responsible for providing medical or personal care to me who willfully fails or refuses to follow my Healthcare Agent’s instructions.

## Release of Healthcare Agent’s Personal Liability

My Healthcare Agent will not incur any personal liability to me or my estate arising from the good faith exercise of discretion or performance of acts and duties relating to my medical treatment and personal care.

## Reimbursement of Healthcare Agent

My Healthcare Agent is entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable expenses arising from the performance of acts and duties relating to my medical treatment and personal care under this instrument.

## Copies Effective as Originals

Photocopies of this instrument are effective and enforceable as originals, and third parties are entitled to rely on photocopies of this instrument for the full force and effect of all stated terms. The word *photocopies* includes facsimiles, digital, or other reproductions.

## Interstate Enforceability

My intention is that the terms of this instrument be honored in any jurisdiction, regardless of its conformity to that jurisdiction’s technical requirements and legal formalities.

## Amendment and Revocation

I reserve the right to revoke my Healthcare Agent’s authority orally or in writing.

## Revocation of Prior Powers

Unless specifically excepted in this instrument, this Medical Power of Attorney supersedes any prior medical durable power of attorney that I have executed. But this instrument does not affect any other unrelated powers previously conveyed by me through general or limited powers of attorney, or my Living Will; these powers and Living Will are to continue in full force until revoked by me or otherwise terminated.

# Definitions

## Shall and May

Unless otherwise specifically provided in this document or by the context in which used, I use the word *shall* in this document to impose a duty, command, direction, or requirement, and the word *may* to allow or permit, but not require. In the context of my Healthcare Agent, when I use the word *shall,* I intend to impose a fiduciary duty on my Healthcare Agent. When I use the word *may*, I intend that my Healthcare Agent is empowered to act with sole and absolute discretion unless otherwise stated in this document.

Dated: [today’s date]

[NAME OF PRINCIPAL], Principal

STATE OF [STATE]

COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Before me, the undersigned, Notary Public, on this day personally appeared [NAME OF PRINCIPAL], as Principal, known to me (or proved to me through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and official seal this day, [today’s date].

Notary Public, State of [State]