

SENATE BILL NO. 2343

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Fischer, Robinson

Representatives Gulleeson, Price, Svedjan

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-06.5 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to health care directives; to amend and reenact subsection 2 of section
3 12.1-31-07 and sections 23-06.5-01, 23-06.5-02, 23-06.5-03, 23-06.5-04, 23-06.5-05,
4 23-06.5-06, 23-06.5-07, 23-06.5-08, 23-06.5-09, 23-06.5-10, 23-06.5-11, 23-06.5-12,
5 23-06.5-13, 23-06.5-15, 23-06.5-16, 23-06.5-17, and 23-06.5-18 of the North Dakota Century
6 Code, relating to health care decisions and directives; and to repeal chapter 23-06.4 of the
7 North Dakota Century Code, relating to treatment declarations.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 12.1-31-07 of the North Dakota
10 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

11 2. Except as provided for by chapters ~~23-06.4~~, 23-06.5, and 30.1-30, a caregiver who
12 knowingly performs an act that causes a disabled adult's or vulnerable elderly
13 adult's life to be endangered, health to be injured, or preexisting physical or mental
14 condition to deteriorate, or a caregiver who fails to perform acts that the caregiver
15 knows are necessary to maintain or preserve the life or health of the disabled adult
16 or vulnerable elderly adult and the failure causes the disabled adult's or vulnerable
17 elderly adult's life to be endangered, health to be injured, or preexisting physical or
18 mental condition to deteriorate, is guilty of a class B felony.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **23-06.5-01. Statement of purpose.** Every competent adult has the right and
22 responsibility to make the decisions relating to the adult's own health care, including the
23 decision to have health care provided, withheld, or withdrawn. The purpose of this chapter is to
24 enable adults to retain control over their own ~~medical~~ health care during periods of incapacity

1 through health directives and the prior designation of an individual to make health care
2 decisions on their behalf. This chapter does not condone, authorize, or approve mercy killing,
3 or permit an affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life, other than to allow the natural
4 process of dying.

5 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **23-06.5-02. Definitions.** In this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 8 1. "Agent" means an adult to whom authority to make health care decisions is
9 delegated under a ~~durable power of attorney for health care~~ directive for the
10 individual granting the power.
- 11 2. "Attending physician" means the physician, selected by or assigned to a patient,
12 who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the patient.
- 13 3. "Capacity to make health care decisions" means the ability to understand and
14 appreciate the nature and consequences of a health care decision, including the
15 significant benefits and harms of and reasonable alternatives to any proposed
16 health care, and the ability to communicate a health care decision.
- 17 4. ~~"Durable power of attorney for health care" means a document delegating to an~~
18 ~~agent the authority to make health care decisions executed in accordance with the~~
19 ~~provisions of this chapter.~~
- 20 5. "Health care decision" means consent to, refusal to consent to, withdrawal of
21 consent to, or request for any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain,
22 diagnose, or treat an individual's physical or mental condition, including:
 - 23 a. Selection and discharge of health care providers and institutions;
 - 24 b. Approval or disapproval of diagnostic tests, surgical procedures, programs of
25 medication, and orders not to resuscitate;
 - 26 c. Directions to provide, withhold, or withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration
27 and all other forms of health care; and
 - 28 d. Establishment of an individual's abode within or without the state and
29 personal security safeguards for an individual, to the extent decisions on
30 these matters relate to the health care needs of the individual.

- 1 5. "Health care directive" means a written instrument that complies with this chapter
2 and includes one or more health care instructions, a power of attorney for health
3 care, or both.
- 4 6. "Health care instruction" means an individual's direction concerning a health care
5 decision for the individual, including a written statement of the individual's values,
6 preferences, guidelines, or directions regarding health care directed to health care
7 providers, others assisting with health care, family members, an agent, or others.
- 8 6- 7. "Health care provider" means an individual or facility licensed, certified, or
9 otherwise authorized or permitted by law to administer health care, for profit or
10 otherwise, in the ordinary course of business or professional practice.
- 11 7- 8. "Long-term care facility" or "long-term care services provider" means a long-term
12 care facility as defined in section 50-10.1-01.
- 13 8- 9. "Principal" means an adult who has executed a ~~durable power of attorney for~~
14 health care directive.

15 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is
16 amended and reenacted as follows:

17 **23-06.5-03. ~~Scope and duration of authority~~ Health care directive.**

- 18 1. A principal may execute a health care directive. A health care directive may
19 include one or more health care instructions to health care providers, others
20 assisting with health care, family members, and a health care agent. A health care
21 directive may include a power of attorney to appoint an agent to make health care
22 decisions for the principal when the principal lacks the capacity to make health
23 care decisions. Subject to the provisions of this chapter and any express
24 limitations set forth by the principal in the ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health care
25 directive, the agent has the authority to make any and all health care decisions on
26 the principal's behalf that the principal could make.
- 27 2. After consultation with the attending physician and other health care providers, the
28 agent shall make health care decisions:
- 29 a. In accordance with the agent's knowledge of the principal's wishes and
30 religious or moral beliefs, as stated orally, or as contained in the ~~durable~~

1 ~~power of attorney for health care or in a declaration executed pursuant to~~
2 ~~chapter 23-06.4~~ principal's health care directive; or

3 b. If the principal's wishes are unknown, in accordance with the agent's
4 assessment of the principal's best interests. In determining the principal's
5 best interests, the agent shall consider the principal's personal values to the
6 extent known to the agent.

7 3. ~~Under a durable power of attorney for health care,~~ A health care directive,
8 including the agent's authority, is in effect only when the principal lacks capacity to
9 make health care decisions, as certified in writing by the principal's attending
10 physician and filed in the principal's medical record, and ceases to be effective
11 upon a determination that the principal has recovered capacity.

12 4. The principal's attending physician shall make reasonable efforts to inform the
13 principal of any proposed treatment, or of any proposal to withdraw or withhold
14 treatment.

15 5. Nothing in this chapter permits an agent to consent to admission to a mental health
16 facility or state institution for a period of more than forty-five days without a mental
17 health proceeding or other court order, or to psychosurgery, abortion, or
18 sterilization, unless the procedure is first approved by court order.

19 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **23-06.5-04. Restrictions on who can act as agent.** ~~A~~ Unless related to the principal
22 by blood, marriage, or adoption, a person may not exercise the authority of agent while serving
23 in one of the following capacities:

- 24 1. The principal's health care provider;
- 25 2. ~~A nonrelative of the principal who is an~~ An employee of the principal's health care
26 provider;
- 27 3. The principal's long-term care services provider; or
- 28 4. ~~A nonrelative of the principal who is an~~ An employee of the principal's long-term
29 care services provider.

30 **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is
31 amended and reenacted as follows:

- 1 **23-06.5-05. Health care directive requirements - Execution and witnesses.** ~~The~~
2 ~~durable power of attorney for~~
- 3 1. To be legally sufficient in this state, a health care directive must:
- 4 a. Be in writing;
- 5 b. Be dated;
- 6 c. State the principal's name;
- 7 d. Be executed by a principal with capacity to do so with the signature of the
8 principal or with the signature of another person authorized by the principal to
9 sign on behalf of the principal;
- 10 e. Contain verification of the principal's signature or the signature of the person
11 authorized by the principal to sign on behalf of the principal, either by a notary
12 public or by witnesses as provided under this chapter; and
- 13 f. Include a health care instruction, a durable power of attorney for health care,
14 or both.
- 15 2. A health care directive must be signed by the principal and that signature must be
16 verified by a notary public or at least two or more subscribing witnesses who are at
17 least eighteen years of age. A person notarizing the document may be an
18 employee of a health care or long-term care provider providing direct care to the
19 principal. At least one witness to the execution of the document must not be a
20 health care or long-term care provider providing direct care to the principal or an
21 employee of a health care or long-term care provider providing direct care to the
22 principal on the date of execution. The notary public or any witness may not be, at
23 the time of execution, the agent, the principal's spouse or heir, a person related to
24 the principal by blood, marriage, or adoption, a person entitled to any part of the
25 estate of the principal upon the death of the principal under a will or deed in
26 existence or by operation of law, any other person who has, at the time of
27 execution, any claims against the estate of the principal, a person directly
28 financially responsible for the principal's medical care, or the attending physician of
29 the principal. If the principal is physically unable to sign, the ~~durable~~ power of
30 attorney for health care may be signed by the principal's name being written by

1 some other person in the principal's presence and at the principal's express
2 direction.

3 **SECTION 7.** A new section to chapter 23-06.5 of the North Dakota Century Code is
4 created and enacted as follows:

5 **Suggested health care directive form.** A health care directive may include provisions
6 consistent with this chapter, including:

- 7 1. The designation of one or more alternate agents to act if the named agent is not
8 reasonably available to serve;
- 9 2. Directions to joint agents regarding the process or standards by which the agents
10 are to reach a health care decision for the principal, and a statement whether joint
11 agents may act independently of one another;
- 12 3. Limitations, if any, on the right of the agent or any alternate agents to receive,
13 review, obtain copies of, and consent to the disclosure of the principal's medical
14 records;
- 15 4. Limitations, if any, on the nomination of the agent as guardian under chapter
16 30.1-28;
- 17 5. A document of gift for the purpose of making an anatomical gift, as set forth in
18 chapter 23-06.2 or an amendment to, revocation of, or refusal to make an
19 anatomical gift;
- 20 6. Limitations, if any, to the effect of dissolution or annulment of marriage on the
21 appointment of an agent;
- 22 7. Specific reasons why a principal wants a health care provider or an employee of a
23 health care provider attending the principal to be eligible to act as the principal's
24 agent; and
- 25 8. Health care instructions regarding artificially administered nutrition or hydration.

26 **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is
27 amended and reenacted as follows:

28 **23-06.5-06. Acceptance of appointment - Withdrawal.** To be effective, the agent
29 must accept the appointment in writing. Subject to the right of the agent to withdraw, the
30 acceptance creates a duty for the agent to make health care decisions on behalf of the principal
31 at such time as the principal becomes ~~incapable~~ incapacitated. Until the principal becomes

1 ~~incapable~~ incapacitated, the agent may withdraw by giving notice to the principal. After the
2 principal becomes ~~incapable~~ incapacitated, the agent may withdraw by giving notice to the
3 attending physician. The attending physician shall cause the withdrawal to be recorded in the
4 principal's medical record.

5 **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
6 amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **23-06.5-07. Revocation.**

- 8 1. A ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health care directive is revoked:
- 9 a. By notification by the principal to the agent or a health care or long-term care
10 services provider orally, or in writing, or by any other act evidencing a specific
11 intent to revoke the power; or
- 12 b. By execution by the principal of a subsequent ~~durable power of attorney for~~
13 health care directive.
- 14 2. A principal's health care or long-term care services provider who is informed of or
15 provided with a revocation of a ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health care directive
16 shall immediately record the revocation in the principal's medical record and notify
17 the agent, if any, the attending physician, and staff responsible for the principal's
18 care of the revocation.
- 19 3. ¶ Unless otherwise provided in the health care directive, if the spouse is the
20 principal's agent, the divorce of the principal and spouse revokes the appointment
21 of the divorced spouse as the principal's agent.

22 **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **23-06.5-08. Inspection and disclosure of medical information.** Subject to any
25 limitations set forth in the ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health care directive by the principal, an
26 agent whose authority is in effect may for the purpose of making health care decisions:

- 27 1. Request, review, and receive any information, oral or written, regarding the
28 principal's physical or mental health, including medical and hospital records;
- 29 2. Execute any releases or other documents which may be required in order to obtain
30 such medical information; and
- 31 3. Consent to the disclosure of such medical information.

1 **SECTION 11. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3 **23-06.5-09. ~~Action by~~ Duties of provider.**

- 4 1. A principal's health care or long-term care services provider, and employees
5 thereof, having knowledge of the principal's ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health
6 care directive, are bound to follow the ~~directives~~ health care decisions of the
7 principal's designated agent or a health care instruction to the extent they are
8 consistent with this chapter and the ~~durable power of attorney for~~ health care
9 directive.
- 10 2. ~~If because of a moral or other conflict with a specific directive given by the agent, a~~
11 A principal's health care or long-term care services provider finds it impossible to
12 follow that directive, the provider has the duty to inform the agent and if possible
13 the principal, and may decline to comply with a health care decision of a principal's
14 designated agent or a health care instruction for reasons of conscience or other
15 conflict. A provider that declines to comply with a health care decision or
16 instruction shall take all reasonable steps to transfer care of the principal to another
17 health care provider who is willing to honor the agent's health care decision, or
18 instruction or directive, and shall provide continuing care to the principal until a
19 transfer can be effected.
- 20 3. This chapter does not require any physician or other health care provider to take
21 any action contrary to reasonable medical standards.
- 22 4. This chapter does not affect the responsibility of the attending physician or other
23 health care provider to provide treatment for a patient's comfort, care, or alleviation
24 of pain.
- 25 5. Notwithstanding a contrary direction contained in a health care directive executed
26 under this chapter, health care must be provided to a pregnant principal unless, to
27 a reasonable degree of medical certainty as certified on the principal's medical
28 record by the attending physician and an obstetrician who has examined the
29 principal, such health care will not maintain the principal in such a way as to permit
30 the continuing development and live birth of the unborn child or will be physically

1 harmful or unreasonably painful to the principal or will prolong severe pain that
2 cannot be alleviated by medication.
3 6. In the absence of a direction to the contrary contained in a health care directive
4 prepared under this chapter, nothing in this chapter requires a physician to
5 withhold, withdraw, or administer nutrition or hydration, or both, from or to the
6 principal. Nutrition or hydration, or both, must be withdrawn, withheld, or
7 administered, if the principal for whom the administration of nutrition or hydration is
8 considered, has directed in a health care directive the principal's desire that
9 nutrition or hydration, or both, be withdrawn, withheld, or administered. If a health
10 care directive prepared under this chapter does not indicate the principal's direction
11 with respect to nutrition or hydration, nutrition or hydration, or both, may be
12 withdrawn or withheld if the attending physician has determined that the
13 administration of nutrition or hydration is inappropriate because the nutrition or
14 hydration cannot be physically assimilated by the principal or would be physically
15 harmful or would cause unreasonable physical pain to the principal.

16 **SECTION 12. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **23-06.5-10. Freedom from influence.**

- 19 1. A health care provider, long-term care services provider, health care service plan,
20 insurer issuing disability insurance, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, or
21 nonprofit hospital service plan may not charge a person a different rate or require
22 any person to execute a ~~durable power of attorney for health care~~ directive as a
23 condition of admission to a hospital or long-term care facility nor as a condition of
24 being insured for, or receiving, health care or long-term care services. Health care
25 or long-term care services may not be refused because a person has executed a
26 ~~durable power of attorney for health care~~ directive.
27 2. ~~A durable power of attorney for health care~~ The appointment of an agent is not
28 effective if, at the time of execution, the principal is a resident of a long-term care
29 facility unless a recognized member of the clergy, an attorney licensed to practice
30 in this state, or a person as may be designated by the department of human
31 services or the district court for the county in which the facility is located, signs a

1 statement affirming that the person has explained the nature and effect of the
2 ~~durable power of attorney for health care~~ appointment to the principal or unless the
3 principal acknowledges in writing that the principal has read ~~the explanation~~
4 ~~prefacing the statutory form in section 23-06.5-17 or a similar~~ written explanation of
5 the nature and effect of ~~a durable power of attorney for health care~~ the
6 appointment. ~~It is the intent of this subsection to recognize that some residents of~~
7 ~~long term care facilities are insulated from a voluntary decisionmaking role, by~~
8 ~~virtue of the custodial nature of their care, so as to require special assurance that~~
9 ~~they are capable of willingly and voluntarily executing a durable power of attorney~~
10 ~~for health care.~~

11 3. ~~A durable power of attorney for health care~~ The appointment of an agent is not
12 effective if, at the time of execution, the principal is being admitted to or is a patient
13 in a hospital unless a person designated by the hospital or an attorney licensed to
14 practice in this state signs a statement that the person has explained the nature
15 and effect of the ~~durable power of attorney for health care~~ appointment to the
16 principal or unless the principal acknowledges in writing that the principal has read
17 ~~the explanation prefacing the statutory form in section 23-06.5-17 or a similar~~
18 written explanation of the nature and effect of ~~a durable power of attorney for~~
19 ~~health care~~ the appointment.

20 **SECTION 13. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22 **23-06.5-11. Reciprocity.** This chapter does not limit the enforceability of a ~~durable~~
23 ~~power of attorney for health care~~ directive or similar instrument executed in another state or
24 jurisdiction in compliance with the law of that state or jurisdiction.

25 **SECTION 14. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-12 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 amended and reenacted as follows:

27 **23-06.5-12. Immunity.**

28 1. A person acting as agent pursuant to a durable power of attorney for health care or
29 person authorized to provide informed consent pursuant to section 23-12-13 may
30 not be subjected to criminal or civil liability for making a health care decision in

- 1 good faith pursuant to the ~~terms of the durable power of attorney for health care~~
2 ~~and the provisions of this chapter or section 23-12-13.~~
- 3 2. A health care or long-term care services provider, or any other person acting for
4 the provider or under the provider's control may not be subjected to civil or criminal
5 liability, or be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct, for any act or
6 intentional failure to act done in good faith and with ordinary care if the act or
7 intentional failure to act is done pursuant to the dictates of ~~the durable power of~~
8 ~~attorney for a~~ health care directive, the directives of the patient's agent, ~~and the or~~
9 other provisions of this chapter or section 23-12-13.
- 10 3. A health care provider who administers health care necessary to keep the principal
11 alive, despite a health care decision of the agent to withhold or withdraw that health
12 care, or a health care provider who withholds health care that the provider has
13 determined to be contrary to reasonable medical standards, despite a health care
14 decision of the agent to provide the health care, may not be subjected to civil or
15 criminal liability or be deemed to have engaged in unprofessional conduct if that
16 health care provider promptly took all reasonable steps to:
- 17 a. Notify the agent of the health care provider's unwillingness to comply;
18 b. Document the notification in the principal's medical record; and
19 c. Permit the agent to arrange to transfer care of the principal to another health
20 care provider willing to comply with the decision of the agent.

21 **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-13 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **23-06.5-13. Guardianship authority—Conflicting declaration Presumptions and**
24 **application.**

- 25 1. Unless a court of competent jurisdiction determines otherwise, a durable power of
26 attorney for health care executed pursuant to this chapter takes precedence over
27 any authority to make medical decisions granted to a guardian pursuant to chapter
28 30.1-28.
- 29 2. To the extent ~~a durable power of attorney for health care conflicts with a~~
30 ~~declaration executed in accordance with chapter 23-06.4~~ that health care directives
31 conflict, the instrument executed later in time controls.

- 1 3. The principal is presumed to have the capacity to execute a health care directive
2 and to revoke a health care directive, absent clear and convincing evidence to the
3 contrary.
- 4 4. A health care provider or agent may presume that a health care directive is legally
5 sufficient absent actual knowledge to the contrary. A health care directive is
6 presumed to be properly executed, absent clear and convincing evidence to the
7 contrary.
- 8 5. An agent and a health care provider acting pursuant to the direction of an agent
9 are presumed to be acting in good faith, absent clear and convincing evidence to
10 the contrary.
- 11 6. A health care directive is presumed to remain in effect until the principal modifies or
12 revokes it, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary.
- 13 7. This chapter does not create a presumption concerning the intention of an
14 individual who has not executed a health care directive and does not impair or
15 supersede any right or responsibility of an individual to consent, refuse to consent,
16 or withdraw consent to health care on behalf of another in the absence of a health
17 care directive.
- 18 8. A copy of a health care directive is presumed to be a true and accurate copy of the
19 executed original, absent clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, and must
20 be given the same effect as an original.
- 21 9. Death resulting from the withholding or withdrawal of health care pursuant to a
22 health care directive in accordance with this chapter does not constitute, for any
23 purpose, a suicide or homicide.
- 24 10. The making of a health care directive under this chapter does not affect in any
25 manner the sale, procurement, or issuance of any policy of life insurance or
26 annuity, nor does it affect, impair, or modify the terms of an existing policy of life
27 insurance or annuity. A policy of life insurance or annuity is not legally impaired or
28 invalidated in any manner by the withholding or withdrawal of health care from an
29 insured qualified patient, notwithstanding any term to the contrary.
- 30 11. A person may not prohibit or require the execution of a health care directive as a
31 condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services.

1 12. This chapter does not affect the right of a patient to make decisions regarding use
2 of health care, so long as the patient is able to do so, or impair or supersede any
3 right or responsibility that a person has to effect the provision, withholding, or
4 withdrawal or health care.

5 13. Health care directives prepared under this chapter which direct the withholding of
6 health care do not apply to emergency treatment performed in a prehospital
7 situation.

8 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **23-06.5-15. Validity of previously executed durable powers of attorney.** A health
11 care directive executed before the effective date of this Act, which complies with the law in
12 effect at the time it was executed, including former chapter 23-06.4, must be given effect
13 pursuant to this chapter. This chapter does not affect the validity or enforceability of a durable
14 ~~powers~~ power of attorney ~~pertaining to~~ for health care executed before ~~July 17, 1994~~ the
15 effective date of this Act.

16 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **23-06.5-16. Use of statutory form.** The statutory health care directive form ~~of durable~~
19 ~~power of attorney~~ described in section 23-06.5-17 may be used and is ~~the preferred~~ an optional
20 form, but not a required form, by which a person may execute a ~~durable power of attorney for~~
21 health care directive pursuant to this chapter. ~~It is known as "the statutory form of durable~~
22 ~~power of attorney for health care"~~. Another form may be used if it complies with this chapter.

23 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **23-06.5-17. Statutory Optional health care directive form of durable power of**
26 **attorney.** The ~~statutory form of durable power of attorney is as follows~~ following is an optional
27 form of a health care directive and is not a required form:

28 ~~STATUTORY FORM DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR~~
29 ~~HEALTH CARE WARNING TO PERSON~~
30 ~~EXECUTING THIS DOCUMENT~~

1 ~~This is an important legal document that is authorized by the general laws of this state.~~

2 ~~Before executing this document, you should know these important facts:~~

3 ~~You must be at least eighteen years of age for this document to be legally valid and~~
4 ~~binding.~~

5 ~~This document gives the person you designate as your agent (the attorney in fact) the~~
6 ~~power to make health care decisions for you. Your agent must act consistently with your~~
7 ~~desires as stated in this document or otherwise made known.~~

8 ~~Except as you otherwise specify in this document, this document gives your agent the~~
9 ~~power to consent to your doctor not giving treatment or stopping treatment necessary to keep~~
10 ~~you alive.~~

11 ~~Notwithstanding this document, you have the right to make medical and other health~~
12 ~~care decisions for yourself so long as you can give informed consent with respect to the~~
13 ~~particular decision.~~

14 ~~This document gives your agent authority to request, consent to, refuse to consent to, or~~
15 ~~to withdraw consent for any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or~~
16 ~~treat a physical or mental condition if you are unable to do so yourself. This power is subject to~~
17 ~~any statement of your desires and any limitation that you include in this document. You may~~
18 ~~state in this document any types of treatment that you do not desire. In addition, a court can~~
19 ~~take away the power of your agent to make health care decisions for you if your agent~~
20 ~~authorizes anything that is illegal, acts contrary to your known desires, or where your desires~~
21 ~~are not known, does anything that is clearly contrary to your best interest.~~

22 ~~Unless you specify a specific period, this power will exist until you revoke it. Your~~
23 ~~agent's power and authority ceases upon your death.~~

24 ~~You have the right to revoke the authority of your agent by notifying your agent or your~~
25 ~~treating doctor, hospital, or other health care provider orally or in writing of the revocation.~~

26 ~~Your agent has the right to examine your medical records and to consent to their~~
27 ~~disclosure unless you limit this right in this document.~~

28 ~~This document revokes any prior durable power of attorney for health care.~~

29 ~~You should carefully read and follow the witnessing procedure described at the end of~~
30 ~~this form. This document will not be valid unless you comply with the witnessing procedure.~~

1 indicate your desires by including a statement of your desires in the same
2 paragraph.)

3 4. ~~STATEMENT OF DESIRES, SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AND LIMITATIONS. (Your~~
4 ~~agent must make health care decisions that are consistent with your known~~
5 ~~desires. You can, but are not required to, state your desires in the space provided~~
6 ~~below. You should consider whether you want to include a statement of your~~
7 ~~desires concerning life prolonging care, treatment, services, and procedures. You~~
8 ~~can also include a statement of your desires concerning other matters relating to~~
9 ~~your health care. You can also make your desires known to your agent by~~
10 ~~discussing your desires with your agent or by some other means. If there are any~~
11 ~~types of treatment that you do not want to be used, you should state them in the~~
12 ~~space below. If you want to limit in any other way the authority given your agent by~~
13 ~~this document, you should state the limits in the space below. If you do not state~~
14 ~~any limits, your agent will have broad powers to make health care decisions for~~
15 ~~you, except to the extent that there are limits provided by law.)~~

16 In exercising the authority under this durable power of attorney for health
17 care, my agent shall act consistently with my desires as stated below and is
18 subject to the special provisions and limitations stated below:

19 a. ~~Statement of desires concerning life prolonging care, treatment, services, and~~
20 ~~procedures:~~

21 _____
22 _____
23 _____

24 b. ~~Additional statement of desires, special provisions, and limitations regarding~~
25 ~~health care decisions:~~

26 _____
27 _____
28 _____

29 (You may attach additional pages if you need more space to complete your
30 statement. If you attach additional pages, you must date and sign EACH of
31 the additional pages at the same time you date and sign this document.) If

1 you wish to make a gift of any bodily organ you may do so pursuant to North
2 Dakota Century Code chapter 23-06.2, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

3 ~~5. INSPECTION AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION RELATING TO MY~~
4 ~~PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH. Subject to any limitations in this document, my~~
5 ~~agent has the power and authority to do all of the following:~~

6 ~~a. Request, review, and receive any information, verbal or written, regarding my~~
7 ~~physical or mental health, including medical and hospital records.~~

8 ~~b. Execute on my behalf any releases or other documents that may be required~~
9 ~~in order to obtain this information.~~

10 ~~e. Consent to the disclosure of this information.~~

11 ~~(If you want to limit the authority of your agent to receive and disclose information~~
12 ~~relating to your health, you must state the limitations in paragraph 4 above.)~~

13 ~~6. SIGNING DOCUMENTS, WAIVERS, AND RELEASES. Where necessary to~~
14 ~~implement the health care decisions that my agent is authorized by this document~~
15 ~~to make, my agent has the power and authority to execute on my behalf all of the~~
16 ~~following:~~

17 ~~a. Documents titled or purporting to be a "Refusal to Permit Treatment" and~~
18 ~~"Leaving Hospital Against Medical Advice".~~

19 ~~b. Any necessary waiver or release from liability required by a hospital or~~
20 ~~physician.~~

21 ~~7. DURATION. (Unless you specify a shorter period in the space below, this power of~~
22 ~~attorney will exist until it is revoked.)~~

23 ~~This durable power of attorney for health care expires on~~

24 _____
25 ~~(Fill in this space ONLY if you want the authority of your agent to end on a specific~~
26 ~~date.)~~

27 ~~8. DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE AGENTS. (You are not required to designate~~
28 ~~any alternate agents but you may do so. Any alternate agent you designate will be~~
29 ~~able to make the same health care decisions as the agent you designated in~~
30 ~~paragraph 1, above, in the event that agent is unable or ineligible to act as your~~
31 ~~agent. If the agent you designated is your spouse, he or she becomes ineligible to~~

1 PART III: Allows me to make an organ and tissue donation upon my death by signing a
2 document of anatomical gift.

3 PART I: APPOINTMENT OF HEALTH CARE AGENT

4 THIS IS WHO I WANT TO MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS
5 FOR ME IF I AM UNABLE TO DECIDE OR SPEAK FOR MYSELF

6 (I know I can change my agent or alternate agent at any time
7 and I know I do not have to appoint an agent or an alternate agent)

8 NOTE: If you appoint an agent, you should discuss this health care directive with your
9 agent and give your agent a copy. If you do not wish to appoint an agent, you may leave Part I
10 blank and go to Part II and/or Part III.

11 When I am unable to decide or speak for myself, I trust and
12 appoint _____ to make health care decisions for me. This
13 person is called my health care agent.

14 Relationship of my health care agent to me: _____

15 Telephone number of my health care agent: _____

16 Address of my health care agent: _____

17 (OPTIONAL) APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE HEALTH CARE AGENT: If my
18 health care agent is not reasonably available, I trust and appoint _____
19 to be my health care agent instead.

20 Relationship of my alternate health care agent to me: _____

21 Telephone number of my alternate health care agent: _____

22 Address of my alternate health care agent: _____

23 THIS IS WHAT I WANT MY HEALTH CARE AGENT TO BE ABLE TO DO

24 IF I AM UNABLE TO DECIDE OR SPEAK FOR MYSELF

25 (I know I can change these choices)

26 My health care agent is automatically given the powers listed below in (A) through (D).
27 My health care agent must follow my health care instructions in this document or any other
28 instructions I have given to my agent. If I have not given health care instructions, then my
29 agent must act in my best interest.

30 Whenever I am unable to decide or speak for myself, my health care agent has the
31 power to:

1 These are instructions for my health care when I am unable to decide or speak for
2 myself. These instructions must be followed (so long as they address my needs).

3 THESE ARE MY BELIEFS AND VALUES ABOUT MY HEALTH CARE

4 (I know I can change these choices or leave any of them blank).

5 I want you to know these things about me to help you make decisions about my health care:

6 My goals for my health care:

7 _____
8 _____
9 _____

10 My fears about my health care:

11 _____
12 _____
13 _____

14 My spiritual or religious beliefs and traditions:

15 _____
16 _____
17 _____

18 My beliefs about when life would be no longer worth living:

19 _____
20 _____
21 _____

22 My thoughts about how my medical condition might affect my family:

23 _____
24 _____
25 _____

26 THIS IS WHAT I WANT AND DO NOT WANT FOR MY HEALTH CARE

27 (I know I can change these choices or leave any of them blank)

28 Many medical treatments may be used to try to improve my medical condition or to prolong my
29 life. Examples include artificial breathing by a machine connected to a tube in the lungs,
30 artificial feeding or fluids through tubes, attempts to start a stopped heart, surgeries, dialysis,

1 antibiotics, and blood transfusions. Most medical treatments can be tried for a while and then
2 stopped if they do not help.

3 I have these views about my health care in these situations:

4 (Note: You can discuss general feelings, specific treatments, or leave any of them
5 blank).

6 If I had a reasonable chance of recovery and were temporarily unable to decide or
7 speak for myself, I would want:

8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

11 If I were dying and unable to decide or speak for myself, I would want:

12 _____
13 _____
14 _____

15 If I were permanently unconscious and unable to decide or speak for myself, I would
16 want:

17 _____
18 _____
19 _____

20 If I were completely dependent on others for my care and unable to decide or speak for
21 myself, I would want:

22 _____
23 _____
24 _____

25 In all circumstances, my doctors will try to keep me comfortable and reduce my pain.

26 This is how I feel about pain relief if it would affect my alertness or if it could shorten my life:

27 _____
28 _____
29 _____

30 There are other things that I want or do not want for my health care, if possible:

31 Who I would like to be my doctor:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 Where I would like to live to receive health care:

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 Where I would like to die and other wishes I have about dying:

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 My wishes about what happens to my body when I die (cremation, burial):

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____

16 Any other things:

17 _____

18 _____

19 _____

20 PART III: MAKING AN ANATOMICAL GIFT

21 I would like to be an organ donor at the time of my death. I have told my family my
22 decision and ask my family to honor my wishes. I wish to donate the following (initial one
23 statement):

24 Any needed organs and tissue.

25 Only the following organs and tissue: _____

26 PART IV: MAKING THE DOCUMENT LEGAL

27 9. PRIOR DESIGNATIONS REVOKED. I revoke any prior ~~durable power of attorney~~
28 for health care directive.

1 DATE AND SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL
2 (YOU MUST DATE AND SIGN THIS ~~POWER OF ATTORNEY~~ HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE)

3 I sign my name to this ~~Statutory Health Care Directive Form Durable Power of~~
4 ~~Attorney For Health Care~~ on _____ at _____
5 (date) (city)

6 _____
7 (state)

8 _____
9 (you sign here)

10 (THIS ~~POWER OF ATTORNEY~~ HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE WILL NOT BE VALID UNLESS IT
11 IS NOTARIZED OR SIGNED BY TWO QUALIFIED WITNESSES WHO ARE PRESENT WHEN
12 YOU SIGN OR ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SIGNATURE. IF YOU HAVE ATTACHED ANY
13 ADDITIONAL PAGES TO THIS FORM, YOU MUST DATE AND SIGN EACH OF THE
14 ADDITIONAL PAGES AT THE SAME TIME YOU DATE AND SIGN THIS ~~POWER OF~~
15 ~~ATTORNEY~~ HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE.)

16 NOTARY PUBLIC OR STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

17 This document must be (1) notarized or (2) witnessed by two qualified adult witnesses. The
18 person notarizing this document may be an employee of a health care or long-term care
19 provider providing your care. At least one witness to the execution of the document must not
20 be a health care or long-term care provider providing you with direct care or an employee of the
21 health care or long-term care provider providing you with direct care. None of the following may
22 be used as a notary or witness:

- 23 1. A person you designate as your agent or alternate agent;
- 24 2. Your spouse;
- 25 3. A person related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption;
- 26 4. A person entitled to inherit any part of your estate upon your death; or
- 27 5. A person who has, at the time of executing this document, any claim against your
- 28 estate.

1 Option 1: Notary Public

2 In my presence on _____ (date), _____ (name of declarant) acknowledged
3 the declarant's signature on this document or acknowledged that the declarant directed the
4 person signing this document to sign on the declarant's behalf.

5 _____

6 (Signature of Notary Public)

7 My commission expires _____, 20__.

8 Option 2: Two Witnesses

9 Witness One:

10 (1) In my presence on _____ (date), _____ (name of
11 declarant) acknowledged the declarant's signature on this document or
12 acknowledged that the declarant directed the person signing this document to
13 sign on the declarant's behalf.

14 (2) I am at least eighteen years of age.

15 (3) If I am a health care provider or an employee of a health care provider giving
16 direct care to the declarant, I must initial this box: [].

17 I certify that the information in (1) through (3) is true and correct.

18 _____

19 (Signature of Witness One)

20 _____

21 (Address)

22 Witness Two:

23 (1) In my presence on _____ (date), _____ (name of
24 declarant) acknowledged the declarant's signature on this document or
25 acknowledged that the declarant directed the person signing this document to
26 sign on the declarant's behalf.

27 (2) I am at least eighteen years of age.

28 (3) If I am a health care provider or an employee of a health care provider giving
29 direct care to the declarant, I must initial this box: [].

30 I certify that the information in (1) through (3) is true and correct.

31 _____

1 (Signature of Witness Two)

2 _____

3 (Address)

4 40: ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT OF POWER OF ATTORNEY. I accept this
5 appointment and agree to serve as agent for health care decisions. I understand I
6 have a duty to act consistently with the desires of the principal as expressed in this
7 appointment. I understand that this document gives me authority over health care
8 decisions for the principal only if the principal becomes ~~incapable~~ incapacitated. I
9 understand that I must act in good faith in exercising my authority under this power
10 of attorney. I understand that the principal may revoke this power of attorney at
11 any time in any manner.

12 If I choose to withdraw during the time the principal is competent, I must notify
13 the principal of my decision. If I choose to withdraw when the principal is ~~incapable~~
14 ~~of making the principal's~~ not able to make health care decisions, I must notify the
15 principal's physician.

16 _____
17 (Signature of agent/date)

18 _____
19 (Signature of alternate agent/date)

20 STATEMENT AFFIRMING EXPLANATION OF DOCUMENT TO RESIDENT OF LONG-TERM
21 CARE FACILITY (Only necessary if person is a resident of long-term care facility and Part I is
22 completed appointing an agent.)

23 I have explained the nature and effect of this health care directive to _____
24 (name of principal) who signed this document and who is a resident of _____
25 (name and city of facility). I am (check one of the following):

- 26 A recognized member of the clergy.
27 An attorney licensed to practice in North Dakota.
28 A person designated by the district court for the county in which the above-named facility
29 is located.
30 A person designated by the North Dakota department of human services.

31 Dated on _____, 20____. _____ (Signature)

1 STATEMENT AFFIRMING EXPLANATION OF DOCUMENT TO HOSPITAL PATIENT OR
2 PERSON BEING ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL (Only necessary if person is a patient in a hospital
3 or is being admitted to a hospital and Part I is completed appointing an agent.)

4 I have explained the nature and effect of this health care directive to

5 _____ (name of principal) who signed this document and who
6 is a patient or is being admitted as a patient of _____

7 (name and city of hospital). I am (check one of the following):

8 An attorney licensed to practice in North Dakota.

9 A person designated by the hospital to explain the health care directive.

10 Dated on _____, 20____.

11 (Signature)

12 **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 23-06.5-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is
13 amended and reenacted as follows:

14 **23-06.5-18. Penalties.**

- 15 1. A person who, without authorization of the principal, willfully alters or forges a
16 ~~power of attorney~~ health care directive or willfully conceals or destroys a revocation
17 with the intent and effect of causing a withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining
18 procedures which hastens the death of the principal is guilty of a class C felony.
- 19 2. A person who, without authorization of the principal, willfully alters, forges,
20 conceals, or destroys a ~~power of attorney~~ health care directive or willfully alters or
21 forges a revocation of a ~~power of attorney~~ health care directive is guilty of a class A
22 misdemeanor.
- 23 3. The penalties provided in this section do not preclude application of any other
24 penalties provided by law.

25 **SECTION 20. REPEAL.** Chapter 23-06.4 of the North Dakota Century Code is
26 repealed.