

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **How do I get this document notarized?**

Most banks will do this for free for account holders. Notaries are also at UPS and FedEx stores. You can also search for independent notaries in your area online.

2. **When do I send this document?**

The moment you become a patient at a hospital. Then you notify your emergency contact to deliver according to General Instructions for Caregivers and Consent document, instruction #2

Please note: You do not need to know the actual name of the CEO; you can address it simply as “Chief Executive Officer”.

3. **How can I mail this document if I am already in the hospital?**

You can't. This is where your friend or family member (emergency contact) will help you and do this for you. See General Instructions for Caregivers and Consent document and educate your emergency contacts on how to deliver this on your behalf. Do this before there's ever any need to go to a hospital/facility.

4. **Which hospital do I send the document to?**

Whichever hospital/facility you are currently a patient at. If this is a scheduled surgery, provide a copy during pre-operative appointment (if they do this at your surgery center) and let them know you are sending the documents for inclusion in the medical record by both (1) Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested and (2) Courier Service on the day of your surgery/procedure.

5. **Who do I give this document to?**

The Best Practice in utilizing the document is to not only initiate the *Caregivers and Consent* document when you are admitted to the hospital/facility, but also give your physician a copy and communicate each item you selected with your physician. Explain to your physician that you have initiated the process of delivering the *Caregivers and Consent* document so that it is officially and legally noticed to be placed in the electronic medical record as informed consent wishes during your hospital/facility stay.

6. Can I use this in a nursing home or outpatient surgery facility?

Any facility where you are under the care of a physician (or surgeon) can be notified of your consent wishes through *the Caregivers and Consent* document.

7. Can I use this document if I am incapacitated and can't make decisions when I am admitted to the hospital?

The *Caregivers and Consent* document was designed for adults who have capacity to make their own decisions when they enter the hospital.

8. Can I use the Caregivers and Consent document for my children?

The *Caregivers and Consent* document was specifically designed for adults who can make their own decisions.

9. Will the Caregivers and Consent document work in any country?

Although this *Caregivers and Consent* document is designed with the United States of America in mind, it is theoretically plausible that any place that respects the Jehovah's Witness' advance decision documents (where a Jehovah Witness declines consent for blood during their entire hospital stay) might also respect the *Caregivers and Consent* document delineating your current consent wishes during your hospital stay.

10. Can I make changes to the Caregivers and Consent document?

Yes! The *Caregivers and Consent* document is a template; you may modify language or create your own consent document.

The key takeaway is found in the **American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics 2.1.1 Informed Consent** language: "When the patient/surrogate has provided specific written consent, the consent form should be included in the record."

Specific written consent to your physician is the main point as it is only within the context of the physician-patient relationship where consent is either granted or withdrawn. Also remember to follow a process to ensure that your current consent is placed into the medical record through legal notice. (see General Instructions for Caregivers and Consent document)