

## **INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY**

### **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL DOCUMENT. BEFORE SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU SHOULD KNOW THESE IMPORTANT FACTS:**

Except to the extent you state otherwise, this document gives the person you name as your agent the authority to make any and all health care decisions for you in accordance with your wishes, including your religious and moral beliefs, when you are no longer capable of making them yourself. Because "health care" means any treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat your physical or mental condition, your agent has the power to make a broad range of health care decisions for you. Your agent may consent, refuse to consent, or withdraw consent to medical treatment and may make decisions about withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment. Your agent may not consent to voluntary inpatient mental health services, convulsive treatment, psychosurgery, or abortion. A physician must comply with your agent's instructions or allow you to be transferred to another physician.

Your agent's authority begins when your doctor certifies that you lack the competence to make health care decisions.

Your agent is obligated to follow your instructions when making decisions on your behalf. Unless you state otherwise, your agent has the same authority to make decisions about your health care as you would have had.

It is important that you discuss this document with your physician or other health care provider before you sign it to make sure that you understand the nature and range of decisions that may be made on your behalf. If you do not have a physician, you should talk with someone else who is knowledgeable about these issues and can answer your questions. You do not need a lawyer's assistance to complete this document, but if there is anything in this document that you do not understand, you should ask a lawyer to explain it to you.

The person you appoint as agent should be someone you know and trust. The person must be 18 years of age or older or a person under 18 years of age who has had the disabilities of minority removed. If you appoint your health or residential care provider (e.g., your physician or an employee of a home health agency, hospital, nursing home, or residential care home, other than a relative), that person has to choose between acting as your agent or as your health or residential care provider; the law does not permit a person to do both at the same time.

You should inform the person you appoint that you want the person to be your health care agent. You should discuss this document with your agent and your physician and give each a signed copy. You should indicate on the document itself the people and institutions who have signed copies. Your agent is not liable for health care decisions made in good faith on your behalf.

Even after you have signed this document, you have the right to make health care decisions for yourself as long as you are able to do so and treatment cannot be given to you

or stopped over your objection. You have the right to revoke the authority granted to your agent by informing your agent or your health or residential care provider orally or in writing or by your execution of a subsequent medical power of attorney. Unless you state otherwise, your appointment of a spouse dissolves on divorce.

This document may not be changed or modified. If you want to make changes in the document, you must make an entirely new one.

You may wish to designate an alternate agent in the event that your agent is unwilling, unable, or ineligible to act as your agent. Any alternate agent you designate has the same authority to make health care decisions for you.

**THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IS NOT VALID UNLESS IT IS SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO COMPETENT ADULT WITNESSES. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS MAY NOT ACT AS ONE OF THE WITNESSES:**

- (1) the person you have designated as your agent;
- (2) a person related to you by blood or marriage;
- (3) a person entitled to any part of your estate after your death under a will or codicil executed by you or by operation of law;
- (4) your attending physician;
- (5) an employee of your attending physician;
- (6) an employee of a health care facility in which you are a patient if the employee is providing direct patient care to you or is an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of the health care facility or of any parent organization of the health care facility; or
- (7) a person who, at the time this power of attorney is executed, has a claim against any part of your estate after your death.

Signed on 8-25, 2010, to confirm that I received this disclosure statement prior to execution of my Medical Power of Attorney and that I have read and understand it.

  
NELVA E. BRUNSTING

## **MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY**

### **DESIGNATION OF HEALTH CARE AGENT**

I, **NELVA ERLEEN BRUNSTING**, also known as **NELVA E. BRUNSTING**, appoint **CAROL A. BRUNSTING**, who resides at 5822 Jason, Houston, Texas 77074, and whose phone number is (713) 560-6381 (cell), as my agent to make any and all health care decisions for me, except to the extent I state otherwise in this document. This medical power of attorney takes effect if I become unable to make my own health care decisions and this fact is certified in writing by my physician.

### **DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE AGENT**

(You are not required to designate an alternate agent but you may do so. An alternate agent may make the same health care decisions as the designated agent if the designated agent is unable or unwilling to act as your agent. If the agent designated is your spouse, the designation is automatically revoked by law if your marriage is dissolved.)

If the person designated as my agent is unable or unwilling to make health care decisions for me, I designate the following persons to serve as my agent, in the following order, to make health care decisions for me as authorized by this document:

#### **A. First Alternate Agent**

**ANITA KAY BRUNSTING**  
203 Bloomingdale Circle  
Victoria, Texas 77904  
(361) 576-5732 (home) or (361) 550-7132 (cell)

#### **B. Second Alternate Agent**

**AMY RUTH TSCHIRHART**  
2582 Country Ledge  
New Braunsfels, Texas 78132  
(830) 625-8352 (home) or (830) 823-2388 (cell)

The original of this document is kept with my other estate planning documents. A signed copy of this document is on file with my lawyer, **ALBERT E. VACEK, JR.**, 14800 St. Mary's Lane, Suite 230, Houston, Texas 77079, telephone (281) 531-5800 or 1-800-229-3002.

### **DURATION**

I understand that this power of attorney exists indefinitely from the date I execute this document unless I establish a shorter time or revoke the power of attorney. If I am unable to make health care decisions for myself when this power of attorney expires, the authority

I have granted my agent continues to exist until the time I become able to make health care decisions for myself.

### **PRIOR DESIGNATIONS REVOKED**

I revoke any prior medical power of attorney.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

In addition to the other powers granted by this document, I grant to my agent the power and authority to serve as my personal representative for all purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and its regulations ("HIPAA") immediately upon my signing this document.

Pursuant to HIPAA, I specifically authorize my agent as my HIPAA personal representative to request, receive and review any information regarding my physical or mental health, including, without limitation all HIPAA protected health information, medical and hospital records; to execute on my behalf any authorizations, releases or other documents that may be required in order to obtain this information; and to consent to the disclosure of this information. I further authorize my agent to execute on my behalf any documents necessary or desirable to implement the health care decisions that my agent is authorized to make under this document.

By signing this Medical Power of Attorney, I specifically empower and authorize my physician, hospital or health care provider to release any and all medical records to my agent or my agent's designee. Further, I waive any liability to any physician, hospital or any health care provider who releases any and all of my medical records to my agent and acknowledge that the health information that would otherwise be protected under HIPAA will no longer be protected or private.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

I have been provided with a disclosure statement explaining the effect of this document. I have read and understand that information contained in the disclosure statement.

I sign my name to this Medical Power of Attorney at Houston, Texas on 8-25, 2010.

  
NELVA E. BRUNSTING

**STATEMENT OF FIRST WITNESS**

I am not the person appointed as agent by this document. I am not related to the principal by blood or marriage. I would not be entitled to any portion of the principal's estate on the principal's death. I am not the attending physician of the principal or an employee of the attending physician. I have no claim against any portion of the principal's estate on the principal's death. Furthermore, if I am an employee of a health care facility in which the principal is a patient, I am not involved in providing direct patient care to the principal and am not an officer, director, partner, or business office employee of the health care facility or of any parent organization of the health care facility.

Merlin Case  
Signature of First Witness

Date: 8/25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Merlin Case**  
14800 St. Mary's Ln., Suite 230  
Houston, TX 77079

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of First Witness

Candace Kunz-Freed Date: 08-25, 2010  
Signature of Second Witness

**Candace Kunz-Freed**  
14800 St. Mary's Ln., Suite 230  
Houston, TX 77079

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Second Witness