

Denise N. Yurkofsky
Attorney at Law

13 Pelham Island Road
Wayland, Massachusetts 01778

Telephone (508)358-4878
Facsimile (508) 817-5435

CARING CONVERSATIONS—QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

These questions are intended to help you think about what medical care you would want under different circumstances. The situations described below are a sampling and are not intended to cover all possible scenarios. The goal is to help you formulate your preferences. If you cannot make medical decisions for yourself, it is important that the people who will be making these decisions for you (called you health care “agents” or “proxies”) understand your wishes and preferences. There are many resources to help you.

1. Medical treatments can sometimes keep you alive even if there is no chance that your medical condition will be cured or improved. **If there is little chance that the treatment will cure or dramatically improve your condition, would you want treatment if:**

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----|----|
| a. | you can no longer recognize or interact with loved ones? | Yes | No |
| b. | you can no longer think or talk clearly? | Yes | No |
| c. | you are housebound? | Yes | No |
| d. | you are in severe pain most of the time? | Yes | No |
| e. | you have discomfort most of the time? | Yes | No |
| f. | you are on a feeding tube to keep you alive? | Yes | No |
| g. | you are on a kidney dialysis machine to keep you alive? | Yes | No |
| h. | you are on a breathing machine to keep you alive? | Yes | No |
| i. | you can no longer control your bladder? | Yes | No |
| j. | you can no longer control your bowels? | Yes | No |
| k. | you live in a nursing home permanently? | Yes | No |

2. If you had Alzheimer’s disease and you could no longer recognize your loved ones, would you want:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|----|
| a. | a feeding tube if spoon feeding was no longer possible? | Yes | No |
| b. | antibiotics if you had pneumonia? | Yes | No |

3. If you had Alzheimer’s disease and were frail and needed help with most routine daily activities (dressing, eating, toileting) and were in a nursing home, but your mind was clear most of the time and you recognized loved ones, if you had pneumonia would you want your life prolonged by receiving antibiotics? Yes No

4. If you were seriously ill with a terminal condition and chemotherapy could give you an additional 6 months of life, would you want the chemotherapy even if it had severe side effects (pain, nausea, vomiting and weakness)? Yes No

5. If you were in a permanent coma and were dependent on a tube for feeding and hydration, would you want the tube removed? Yes No

6. If your heart and breathing stopped, under what circumstances you would **NOT** want cpr or other measures to try and revive you? Please specify:

Denise N. Yurkofsky, 13 Pelham Island Road, Wayland, MA 01778 508/358-4878