

Instructions for Completing the **My Burial Wishes** Form

FILLING OUT THE FORM

1. Choose the version of My Burial Wishes applicable for your state. If you divide your time between two or more states, and those states employ different versions, execute the document for the state that is your primary residence.
2. You do not need two agents. However, it is advisable to have two if there is a possibility that your primary agent may be unable to perform their duties.
3. **Do not:**
 - a. Sign or date the document until the notary or witnesses are present.
 - b. Initial any boxes until the notary or witnesses are present.
4. You can either print the blank document and write in the information by hand, or fill in the fields on the computer, then print the partially completed document.
5. If you are unable to sign for yourself, someone may sign on your behalf, *but must note on the form that they did so.*

WITNESSING

6. If your document requires **two witnesses**:
 - a. Do not use as a witness anyone who could be construed to have any personal interest in the execution of this document. This includes a parent, sibling, child, grandchild, as well the people you are appointing as your agent(s), anyone on your healthcare team, or any beneficiary of your estate.
 - b. Both witnesses must be present when they sign.
7. If your document requires **notarization**, you should bring identification with you to prove your identity to the notary. In some states, if the notary knows you personally, their knowledge sufficiently establishes your identity, but this is not the case in all states.
8. If your document requires **both** witnesses and notarization:
 - a. Only the notary needs to be present when you sign.
The notary is attesting that **you signed** the document in front of him or her.
The witnesses are attesting that **you told them** you signed the document.
 - b. The witness rules stated above in #5 also apply to witnesses in this case.

ACCEPTANCE BY YOUR AGENT(S)

8. In some states, an agent does not have authority to act until they have signed the document, stating that they accept their appointment as your agent.

AFTER THE DOCUMENT IS EXECUTED

Once the document is signed, witnessed and/or notarized, and your agent(s) signed that they accept their appointment:

- a. A copy of the form should be kept with your medical information.
- b. Additional copies should be sent to anyone likely to be contacted in the event of your death, including but not limited to your family members, attorney, social worker, or rabbi.
- c. Keep the original so you can give a copy of it to whoever you might need to in the future.