



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Two Peachtree Street, NW • Suite 29-250 • Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142 • 404-651-6314

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL DHR EMPLOYEES

FROM: COMMISSIONER B.J. WALKER

SUBJECT: ADVANCE DIRECTIVES

DATE: APRIL 1, 2005

CC: KENNETH BRAMLETT, JIM BRICKER, STUART BROWN, MARIA GREENE, KENNETH JONES, STEVE LOVE, LARRY RICKS, ROBERT RIDDLE, MARTIN ROTTER, JIM SANREGRET, JOHN SARTAIN, GINA SIMPSON, GWENDOLYN SKINNER, DENA J. SMITH, JOHN STEWART, ROSA WAYMON, BRENDA WOODARD

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I am sure the Terry Schiavo case has touched us all. Perhaps it has encouraged you to have a general discussion of the issues of “end-of-life”, surrogate decision-making and guardianship. As traumatic as this situation is for the Schiavo and Schindler families, it has given our nation yet another opportunity to reflect upon what would happen if we were in a similar situation.

Every day I ask you to do whatever it takes to make life better for Georgia's most vulnerable families. I would be remiss if I did not remind each of our DHR family of employees to also take the time to reflect upon your own wishes and to not hesitate to take the steps necessary to make them known to family, close friends and physicians.

Clearly we have seen that if our wishes are not evidenced in writing there is the opportunity for conflict and controversy during an already difficult time for families. The Division of Aging Services has documents available on their website free of charge for your use.

The Division of Aging Services website can be accessed at <http://aging.dhr.georgia.gov> and click on Publications on the left.