## ADDENDUM TO THE GIFT OF PEACE OF MIND BOOKLET JULY 2005

## IOWA 2002 LAW RELATING TO ADVANCE CARE PLANNING: OUT OF HOSPITAL DO NOT RESUSCIATE

In 2002, a law passed which allows terminally ill adults to make non-resuscitation decisions in out-of-hospital settings. Previous to this law, terminally ill patients outside a hospital setting, could not be certain their end-of-life decision to not be resuscitated would be honored because there were no uniform guidelines for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other providers to follow. The Out of Hospital Do-Not Resuscitate (OOH DNR) law directs EMS providers and other health care providers not to perform unwanted resuscitation.

The law allows terminally ill patients to have their physicians prepare and sign an "Out of Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate: (OOH DNR) order." The OOH DNR order is a physician's order authorizing health care providers to allow a patient's wishes not to be resuscitated in an outside the hospital setting. The out-of-hospital setting may include a health care facility, a hospice setting or the patient's own home. Resuscitation is any medical intervention that utilizes mechanical or artificial means to sustain, restore, or supplant a spontaneous vital function, including but not limited to chest compression, defibrillation, intubation, and emergency drugs intended to alter cardiac function or otherwise sustain life. Patients will still receive comfort care, including pain medication.

The law also recognizes uniform OOH DNR identifiers such as a standard necklace or bracelet obtained through Medic Alert.

For more information on OOH DNR contact the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Management Services (EMS) at 1-800-728-3367 or <a href="https://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems">www.idph.state.ia.us/ems</a>