



MICHIGAN LONG TERM CARE
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Fact Sheet: **Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) Order**

What is a Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) order?

Under Michigan law, a do-not-resuscitate order is a voluntarily signed form by either a person, a patient advocate, or a guardian. The order states that if the person's heart or breathing stops, there should be no resuscitation efforts made. Resuscitation efforts include mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and defibrillation.

What is a patient advocate or guardian?

A patient advocate is a person who is appointed by another person to make medical treatment and related personal care decisions when a person can no longer make those decisions for himself or herself. A guardian is a person appointed by the probate court who is legally responsible for caring for a person and making necessary healthcare and other decisions.

Who can create a DNR order?

- Any person who is 18 years of age or older and of sound mind can create a DNR order on his or her own behalf.
- A patient advocate of a person 18 years of age or older may create a DNR order on behalf of that person.
- A guardian can create a DNR order on behalf of the protected person when:
 1. The court has given the guardian the power to consent to a DNR order.
 2. The guardian has visited the person within 14 days before signing a DNR order and has discussed the specifics of the DNR with that person if possible.
 3. The guardian has discussed the medical reasons for the DNR order with the protected person's attending physician.

Who must sign a DNR form?

The DNR form must be signed by:

- The person, the person's patient advocate, or another person directed by and in the presence of a person to sign the document,
- The person's attending physician, **AND**
- Two witnesses who are 18 years of age or older and at least one of whom is not the person's spouse, parent, child, grandchild, sibling, or heir.

Is there an exception to who must sign the DNR form?

There is an exception **only** for people who belong to a church or religion that does not believe in medical intervention and relies on prayer alone for healing. In these cases, everyone must sign the form as described above EXCEPT for a physician.

How do others know that a DNR order exists?

- The person can wear a bracelet that reads "DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE ORDER", the name and address of the person, and the name and phone number of the attending physician, if any. The bracelet can be placed on the person by him or herself, the patient advocate, or an individual chosen by the person. If the person has a guardian, the guardian, the attending physician, or someone delegated by the attending physician can place the bracelet on the person.
- The person, the patient advocate, or the guardian must keep the order and have it readily available within the person's home or another setting outside of a hospital. **If the person is at home, the order should be kept in plain view so if emergency medical services (EMS) are called, they have notice of the person's wishes not to be resuscitated.**
- The physician who signs the order must keep a copy of it and make the order part of the person's permanent medical record.
- A guardian must give a copy of the order to the administrator, or the administrator's designee, of a facility in which the person is a resident.

Can a DNR order be revoked?

YES. A person can revoke a DNR order signed by the person, the guardian, or the patient advocate by expressing the desire to revoke the order in any manner. If the person does not revoke the DNR in writing, anyone who observed the revocation should write down the manner in which this revocation was communicated and give this document to either the person's attending physician or to the administrator of a facility, if applicable.

A patient advocate or a guardian may also revoke an order on a person's behalf but must do so in writing and provide notice of the revocation by giving it to the person's attending physician or to the administrator of a facility, if applicable.

How does a revocation become effective?

Once the order has been revoked, the person who has notice of the revocation should:

- Write "void" on all pages of the order.
- If applicable, remove the person's DNR bracelet.
- A physician or administrator, or one of their designees (like a nurse practitioner, social worker, or director of nursing) notified of the revocation should make the revocation part of the person's permanent medical record.

Are there sample forms for a DNR order?

Yes. The Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program included both DNR forms in its publication, *Advance Directives – Planning for Your Future Medical Care*. Contact the Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program for a free copy.

Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Free and Confidential Help

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