

Do Not Resuscitate



A program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care
in collaboration with Northeast Florida hospitals

What is DNR or a DNRO?

Do Not Resuscitate, also known as a DNR, means that when a person's heart and/or breathing stops, no attempt is made to restore it. A Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO), is a medical order signed by a physician and used to identify people who do not wish to have cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the event that their heart or breathing stops.

Who should have a DNRO?

Generally, a DNRO is created when a person is near the end of life, has a terminal illness or a serious illness and will not improve. The physician signs the order only after a discussion with the patient and/or health care surrogate to ensure there is a full understanding of the implications of a DNRO.

I have a living will, is that the same as a DNRO?

No, a living will is a document that instructs your health care surrogate and health care providers on what care and treatments you would want under certain circumstances, when you are unable to make those decisions yourself. A DNRO is a medical order also signed by your doctor that is immediately in place to prevent CPR from being started in the event breathing or heart stop.

What does a DNRO form look like?

In order to be legal, the Florida DNR (Form 1896) must be printed and copied on yellow paper. Additionally, it must be signed by either the individual or the individual's legal representative and a Florida licensed physician. It should be kept in a noticeable, easily accessible place such as above the bed or on the refrigerator as many first responders are instructed to look for information on medications in these places.

Will the form be honored in another state or can I use a form from another state in Florida?

No, this form will not be accepted in other states. A form from another state will not be accepted in Florida.

Where can I obtain the form?

The form can be downloaded from The Florida Department of Health website: http://www.floridahealth.gov/licensing-and-regulation/ems-system/_documents/dnro-updated-form-bw.pdf or obtained for free by writing to: The Florida Department of Health Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support Trauma Program 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-22 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738

Remember to inform your doctors, family and loved ones about your wishes and decisions regarding DNR/DNRO as part of your advance care planning. Doing so will make the decision-making process regarding your continued care less difficult for those acting on your behalf.

What is Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation?

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency procedure done in attempt to revive the heart or breathing if one or both stopped. It may include:

- Pumping the heart by pressing down hard on the chest
- Breathing into the mouth to get air in the lungs
- Electrical shock to the chest
- Administering medications to stimulate the heart
- Inserting a tube into windpipe to get air into the lungs

For further information, see CPR fact sheet

A DNRO does not mean do not treat. It only means that CPR will not be initiated. Interventions, such as oxygen and pain medications will still be used as comfort measures and one can also choose to continue with aggressive care if desired.

Can the form be revoked?

Yes, the form can be revoked at any time by the person who signed the form, either orally or in writing, by physical destruction or by failure to present it..

Reference: Florida Department of Health <http://www.floridahealth.gov/about-the-department-of-health/about-us/patient-rights-and-safety/do-not-resuscitate/faq-page.html>