

# DNR GUIDE

## (REVISED)

Oklahoma now has a community Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) consent form.

- The form is community in the sense that it may be signed at home. This is much less stressful than waiting to sign a DNR consent form at a hospital or nursing facility. Once signed, the form is portable. You may take it with you to a hospital or nursing facility and it must be honored. By signing the form, you are instructing physicians and all medical institutions who might care for you that in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest, **you do not consent to the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in any form.**
- Signing requirements are the same as those for an advance directive: two witnesses eighteen years or older who are not named in your will. The form doesn't have to be notarized and your doctor doesn't have to co-sign.
- The bright yellow color of the form assures it will be recognized by those attending you, including emergency medical personnel. You do not have to buy a necklace or bracelet, but you may if you wish. Necklaces and bracelets will not be supplied by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. If the DNR form will be used in your home, display it above your bed or on your refrigerator door.
- **IMPORTANT:** This form isn't for everyone. It is intended for use by a person who is **near death**. An advance directive doesn't go into effect until two physicians certify your condition as terminal. But the DNR consent form goes into effect **immediately**. Therefore, it should be signed only by someone who is terminal in his or her own mind and has made an informed decision that he or she does not want to be resuscitated in any circumstance.
- Those who are not near death can anticipate use of the form, however. You may appoint a representative to sign the form for you if you become incapacitated. "Representative" is defined in the law as an agent for health care decisions under a durable power of attorney, a health care proxy acting under an advance directive or a guardian of the person. If you don't sign a consent form or appoint a representative, your physician can certify that you would not have consented to CPR if he or she knows by **clear and convincing evidence** that you had decided not to be resuscitated in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. This certification is made on the "Certification of Physician" form on the back of the consent form, and this form is to be used **only by physicians**. Since your physician can certify your desire not to be resuscitated only if he knows this for a fact, it is important for you to discuss-and to say out loud in the presence of family or close friends-how you feel about the administration of CPR in near death situations. Your family and friends can then communicate your decision to your attending physician if you become incapacitated.
- **If you have capacity, only you may sign the form.** In fact, your doctor must record in your medical record why it is appropriate for someone other than you to be signing. For example, it would be appropriate only if you were incapacitated and you have a representative, as defined above. If you have a representative and it is appropriate for the representative to sign for you, the representative must first be informed by your doctor that **the representative is deciding what you would want if you could speak for yourself.**
- Free DNR consent forms are available and may be ordered from:

OKDHS Supply Warehouse  
217 N. E. 30th Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
877-283-4113

FAX 405-528-4991 Give your name, address, phone number and quantity.