

# **LIVING WILL HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE ORDERS**

Today, advances in medicine and medical technology save many lives that years ago might have been lost. Unfortunately, sometimes this same technology also artificially prolongs life for people who have no reasonable hope of recovery. No one likes to think about death and dying, but they are inescapable realities of life.

In 1991, Ohio recognized your right to have a Living Will. This was in addition to Ohio's other recognized advance directive at the time, the Health Care Power of Attorney. In 1998, Ohio recognized yet another tool to help you and your physician with effective health care planning called a DNR (Do-Not-Resuscitate) Order. All of these measures help put control over future medical choices in your hands.

The Living Will allows you to decide and document, in advance, the type of care you would like to receive if you were to become permanently unconscious or terminally ill and unable to communicate. The Health Care Power of Attorney enables you to select someone to make decisions for you.

A person who does not wish to have Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) performed may make this wish known through a doctor's order called a DNR Order. A DNR Order addresses the various methods used to revive people whose hearts have stopped (cardiac arrest) or people who have stopped breathing (respiratory arrest). In 1998, a DNR law was established to help people communicate their wishes about resuscitation to medical personnel inside or outside a hospital or nursing home setting. It allows emergency medical workers to honor a person's physician-written DNR Order in the home, nursing home, or various other settings. The 1998 DNR law also protects emergency squads and other health care providers from liability if they follow a person's DNR Order.

Following the establishment of the 1998 DNR law, the Ohio Department of Health established two types of DNR Comfort Care Orders that allow people to choose the extent of the treatment they wish to receive at the end of life. A person with a "DNR Comfort Care Arrest Order" will receive all the appropriate medical treatment, which may include components of CPR, until the person has a cardiac or respiratory arrest, at which point only comfort care will be provided. By requesting the broader "DNR Comfort Care Order", a person is choosing, from the moment the order is written, to have only comfort care measures provided should an event occur that is life threatening or ending. Your physician or attorney can explain the differences in DNR Orders to you.

It is important to understand what Ohio's laws allow or do not allow in regards to expressing your desires, goals, and wishes by using tools such as Ohio's Advance Directives. Discuss concerns that you have with your family, physician, and attorney. Ohio Eye Associates / Ohio Eye Optometrics will provide Advance Directive forms per patient request.