

Organ Donor Registration

Now there are several ways to sign up to be an organ, eye and/or tissue donor in North Carolina, including at the DMV or at:

Donatelifenc.org

<http://www.donatelifenc.org>

This site allows you to create an on-line donor record. When you go to the DMV to obtain or renew your driver's license or ID card, your examiner will ask if you would like to become a donor. When you say "yes," a red heart is added to your license or ID card.

There are approximately 3,000 people in North Carolina on the organ donor waiting list. The need for donors is especially great in minority populations, as organ donations between people in the same ethnic group are more successful. Each day, an average of 80 people receive an organ, but 20 people on average also die each day waiting for transplants that won't happen because there is a shortage of organs.

There is no upper age limit to become an organ donor. Suitability for organ donation depends much more on your general state of health.

It is important to discuss your wishes with your family. Then family members will know your preference to donate or not donate, and those wishes can be carried out in case of death.

Visit www.DonateLifeNC.org to learn more or call Donate Life North Carolina at 919-964-3562.



Thank you for your interest in studying what advance health care directives are available to you!

One of the most stressful times to make important life or death decisions, and decisions affecting mental health treatment or organ donation is during an actual medical emergency.

The person having the emergency, his or her family and loved ones, and the health care providers are all under very critical, time-sensitive pressures during an emergency.

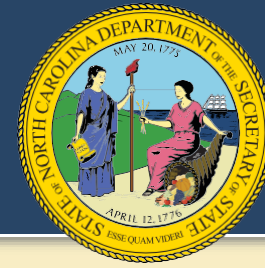
One of the best times to make some of these same decisions is when a person is not in a medical emergency and can take the time to reflect and study on what directions he or she wants family and medical providers to know in a crisis situation, before it ever happens.

This is why so many people today make the effort to put on record one or more of the advance health care directives available.

The North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State is proud to offer this voluntary registry program to people who want to plan ahead and to make sure that they always have a voice in their health care issues.

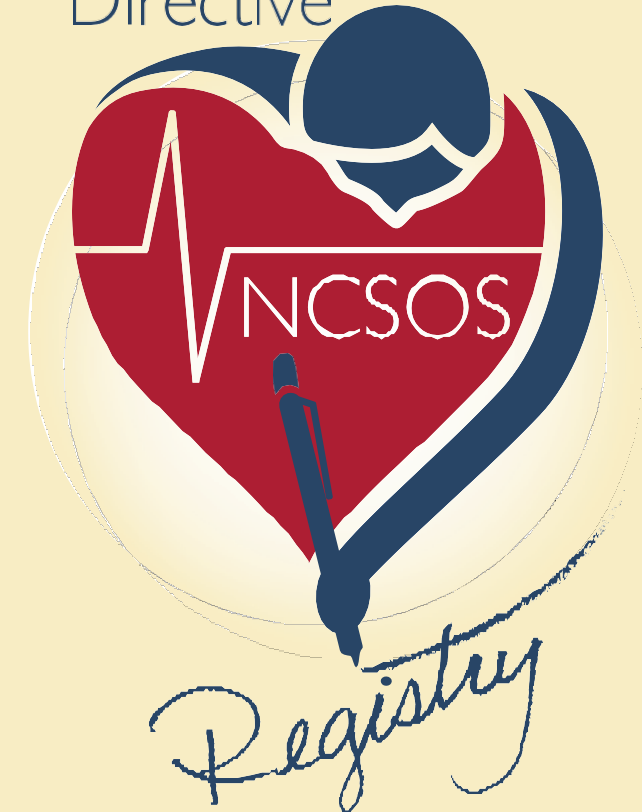
Elaine F. Marshall

Elaine F. Marshall
N.C. Secretary of State



The North Carolina
Department of the
Secretary of State

Advance Health Care Directive



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Raleigh, NC
27626-0622

www.sosnc.gov

The Health Care Directive Registry

The NC General Assembly authorized the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State to establish a registry where you may file your advance health care directives. Advance health care directives are legal documents that give written instructions about your health care if, in the future, you cannot speak for yourself. Advance health care directives may include any of the following:

- **Health Care Power of Attorney;**
- **Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death;**
- **Advance Instruction for Mental Health Treatment; or**
- **Declaration of an Anatomical Gift.**

Health Care Power of Attorney allows you to name a person you trust to make your health care decisions if you cannot make them yourself.

Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death (or Living Will) is a statement that you desire not to have your life prolonged by extraordinary measures if you have a terminal or incurable illness, or if you are in a vegetative state.

Advance Instruction for Mental Health Treatment makes a declaration of instructions, information and preferences regarding your mental health treatment. It also states that you are aware that the advance instruction authorizes a mental health treatment provider to act according to your wishes. It may also outline your consent or refusal of mental health treatment.

All directives except the Declaration of an Anatomical Gift (Organ Donor Card) must be notarized before you submit them to be filed in the Advance Health Care Directive Registry. The Organ Donor Card does require your signature and two witness signatures.

The North Carolina Secretary of State is only the Administrator of the Advance Health Care Directive Registry. It is prohibited from giving legal advice.

Questions about advance health care directives may be answered by consulting with your attorney or other agencies that specialize in end-of-life care choices and issues.

♥ How to register

1. **Print the Registration Form from the Advance Health Care Directive Registry link on our web site at www.sosnc.gov.**
2. **Complete the Registration Form and submit a \$10 fee for processing and filing each document you wish to register.**
3. **Mail the Registration Form(s) along with the directive(s) [preferably copies] and the fee(s) to:**

North Carolina Secretary of State

*Advance Health Care Directive Registry
P.O. Box 29622
Raleigh, NC 27626-0622*

Your directive(s) will be scanned into our secure on-line database. We will send you two (2) Registry Cards that contain your file number and password, which can be used by you and those you select to view your directive(s) over the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Your directive may be accessed by clicking on the Advance Health Care Directive Registry link at www.sosnc.gov. If the directives you submitted were originals, we also will return them to you.

Who should you notify?

After receiving your Registry Cards with your access information on them, you may want to make copies for everyone who you would like to have access to your directives. You may also want to consider placing an extra copy in the glove compartment of your vehicle and a copy in any other residences you may have.

Directives should be readily available to those who will need to make decisions for you in the event you are unable to make decisions for yourself. Therefore, if you place your card in a hidden location or a safety deposit box, the directive information may not be nearby when you need it the most.

Registration of your Advance Health Care Directive is entirely voluntary. Whether or not you decide to register your directives with the North Carolina Secretary of State, you should notify everyone who needs to know your wishes outlined in your directives, such as your Power of Attorney designee, other family members and your doctor, hospital, agent or surrogate.

♥ Revocation

You may, at any time, revoke your directives filed with the Secretary of State free of charge. To do so, print a Removal Form from the Advance Health Care Directive Registry link on our website at www.sosnc.gov; complete the Removal Form and have it notarized. Then mail it to the North Carolina Secretary of State, Advance Health Care Directive Registry. We will delete your directive and it will no longer be accessible over the Internet.

Please note: The person who originally sent the paperwork is the only one who may revoke a directive.