

The Iris Project

Revisions to the Colorado CPR Directive Regulations

A taskforce convened by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment revised the regulations governing the Colorado CPR directive. The taskforce included members of the department's Emergency Medical & Trauma Services Section, EMS field personnel, medical directors, attorneys, coroners, and the Colorado Advance Directives Consortium.

The CPR directive is a written instruction that refuses cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the event that the person's heart or lungs malfunction or stop.

The purpose of the review and revision was to ensure that the regulations were true to the spirit and the letter of the CPR directive statute. Much of the operational detail was deleted from the regulations, and key provisions of the statute were emphasized:

- Any adult able to make his or her own decisions may execute a CPR directive.
- The CPR directive must contain certain information to help identify the patient as the person who signed the form.

- The department now provides a template (see reverse) for the CPR directive form, rather than requiring any particular form. The CPR directive must be signed by a physician (and only a physician).
- However, a CPR directive may be made in any manner or on any form—one modeled on the template provided by CDPHE, created by a particular healthcare facility, another advance medical directive, or in a simple written statement signed by the person wishing to refuse CPR. These forms may or may not require the signature of a physician or healthcare provider. These forms of CPR directive are valid and should be honored.
- CPR directives that are photocopied, scanned, or faxed are just as valid as originals.
- Persons who have refused CPR must be provided other appropriate care, especially treatments intended for comfort and relief of pain.

NOTE: A Healthcare Agent, Guardian, or Proxy Decision Maker may not revoke a CPR directive originally signed by the principal.