



Do Not Resuscitate orders (DNRO) are legal documents that express the patient's desire to not be resuscitated. **The intent of such an order is for medical personnel to withhold resuscitation efforts on a patient found in respiratory and/or cardiac arrest.** This order honors the wishes and expectations of the patient, physician, and family. The presence of a DNRO does not preclude the patient however, from receiving other care outside the scope of resuscitation.

## A. Valid DNRO

1. An original or completed copy of DH Form 1896, Florida Do Not Resuscitate Order, December 2002 (**Protocol 28**):
  - a) DH Form 1896 may be duplicated provided that the content of the form is unaltered, the reproduction is of good quality, and on **yellow paper**.
  - b) Any previous edition of DH Form 1896.
2. A DNRO Patient Identification Device. This device is a miniature version of form 1896 and is incorporated as part of the DNRO form. Use of this device is voluntary and is intended to provide a portable DNRO that travels with the patient.
3. Either the DNRO or Patient Identification Device must:
  - a) Be signed by the patient's physician.
  - b) Be signed by the patient, health care surrogate if the patient is unable to provide consent, or court appointed guardian or person acting in the pursuant to a durable power of attorney.

## B. Confirmation and Documentation

1. Confirm the identity of the patient with a DNRO through a driver's license, other photo identification, or from a witness in the presence of the patient. If a witness is used to identify the patient, this shall be documented in the ePCR narrative section to include:
  - a) The full name of the witness.
  - b) The address and telephone number of the witness.
  - c) The relationship of the witness to the patient.
2. Document in the narrative portion of the ePCR:
  - a) The **effective date** of the DNRO.
  - b) **Information pertaining to a witness** if one was used to establish patient identification.
  - c) The name of the attending **physician who signed the DNRO**.
  - d) **Who signed the DNRO** (patient, health care surrogate, guardian, or proxy).



- e) The **required information whenever the DNRO patient dies during transport.**
3. Ensure a copy of the DNRO accompanies the live patient if transported. Upon arrival, personnel shall relinquish the DNRO form to the receiving facility.

### **C. Additional Information**

1. If it is determined that the patient has a valid DNRO, personnel should not initiate CPR but, all other medical care, short of resuscitative measures is indicated.
2. If personnel are presented with an invalid DNRO or in the absence of a DNRO, initiation of CPR and other standard life-saving techniques is required.
3. If CPR has been initiated and it is later determined that the patient has a valid DNRO, CPR shall be discontinued. Proper documentation is required in accordance with section B.
4. A DNRO may be revoked at any time by the patient, designated health care surrogate, legal guardian, or proxy pursuant to section 765.104, FS. Under this statute the patient can revoke a DNRO in writing by physical cancellation or destruction of the DNRO form or by orally expressing a contrary intent, i.e., by requesting that resuscitation measures be initiated.

