

Frequently Asked Questions About a Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO)

A **Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO)** is a form developed by the Department of Health to identify people who do not wish to be resuscitated in the event of respiratory or cardiac arrest. A form may be obtained by downloading directly from this site. This form should only be printed on yellow paper (of any shade). You may also send a written request to Florida Department of Health, Trauma Office, at 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-22, Tallahassee, Florida 32399.

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1. What is a DNRO?

A **DNRO (Form1896)** is a form developed by the Department of Health to identify people who do not wish to be resuscitated in the event of respiratory or cardiac arrest.

2. Who should have a DNRO?

A DNRO form is used by someone who does not wish to have respiratory or cardiac resuscitation in the event of death. If you are not sure if a DNRO would be appropriate for you, or you would like additional information, it is best to consult your physician as well as an attorney.

3. Why should an individual complete a DNRO?

A DNRO is a physician's order to withhold or withdraw resuscitation if a patient goes into respiratory or cardiac arrest. It is part of the prescribed medical treatment plan and must have a physician's signature.

4. When is the DNRO form honored?

When the DNRO is presented to an emergency medical technician or paramedic in a setting other than a health care facility, the form may be honored. Facilities may honor the form, but they may also require their own internal form. Please consult with the facility risk management/legal office concerning the use of the form in specific health care settings.

5. How will the properly completed DNRO form look?

The properly completed form will be signed by the competent patient, or the patient's representative, signed by a Florida licensed physician, and may be on any shade of yellow paper.

6. Does it have to be notarized or witnessed?

No, the form is simply signed by the patient, health care surrogate or health care proxy as defined in [section 765.202, Florida Statutes](#), and the patient's physician. This is a physician's order.

7. Where should I keep the form?

The DNRO form should be kept in a noticeable, easily accessible place. It should be readily available in the event of an emergency to ensure that the patient's last wished will be honored.

8. Is the form good outside of Florida? Can I use form from another state?

No, this form only applies in Florida. If you are planning on visiting family in another state or will be living outside Florida temporarily, this form will not be accepted.

9. Can the form be revoked?

The form can be revoked at any time either orally or in writing, by physical destruction, by failure to present it, or by orally expressing a contrary intent by the patient or the patient's health care surrogate.

10. Is there a portable version of the DNRO form?

Attached to the bottom of the Department of Health's Form 1896 is a patient identification section that may be removed from the form, laminated and possibly worn on a chain around the neck, clipped to a key chain or to clothing/bed, etc. so it can travel with the patient. It is equally as valid as the DNRO form and can be presented to emergency medical services when they arrive on scene and is designed to allow the patient to move between settings with one document. The patient identification device is an added option to the form to allow for portability and convenience. It does not have to be completed unless the person wishes to remove it and carry it between settings. Copies of the form on yellow paper will serve the same purpose.

11. Should 9-1-1 still be called if the patient has a DNRO?

9-1-1 can be called at any time to provide family/caregivers with back up and support for the patient. Many family members call 9-1-1 to control pain and to make sure the patient is comfortable. Others may want the patient to be transported to the hospital, so the attending physicians will be present. Emergency medical services are part of the community and able to provide appropriate care as needed in many capacities. A DNRO only means that in the event of respiratory or cardiac arrest that CPR will not be initiated. Comfort care measures, such as oxygen administration, hemorrhage control and pain management will still be used.

12. Is it permissible to copy the DNRO form?

Yes, on any shade of yellow paper.

13. Does the form ever expire?

No, the form does not expire.

14. Where can a DNRO form be obtained?

Click on this link here [Do Not Resuscitate Order—Form 1896](#), or directly from this website.

SPECIAL NOTICE – PLEASE READ: Per [Florida Administrative Code rule 64J-2.018](#), this form MUST be printed on any shade YELLOW paper to be a legally recognized form!

The form can also be obtained for free by writing to the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Trauma Section, 4052 Bald Cypress Way-Bin A-22, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738. You may also call the Florida Department of Health directly by dialing our toll-free number 800-226-1911, extension 2795, or local number 850-558-9514.