

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 online 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. This heart is legally binding; once you turn 18, your wishes to be an organ and eye donor cannot be overturned by others. It relieves your family of making this decision on your behalf, so please be sure to tell them when you join the registry.

Approximately 3,400 people, including neighbors, parents, children, relatives, coworkers and friends, are waiting for transplants in North Carolina.

One person can save eight lives through organ donation and enhance more than 50 lives through tissue donation.

Still have questions? Please visit www.DonateLifeNC.org to learn more or call Donate Life North Carolina at 919-451-7893.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE REGISTRY

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 do 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
N.C. Secretary of State



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♥ 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:

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

A **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.

A **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.

An **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.

In each of the cases, the directive **must be notarized** before you may submit it to the Secretary of State for filing into the Advanced Health Care Directive Registry.

The North Carolina Secretary of State is only the Administrator of the Advance Health Care Directive Registry and 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 website at www.sosnc.com.
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 online 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.com. If the directives you submitted were originals, we also will return them to you.

Who should you notify of your Advance Health Care Directives?

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.com; 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.