



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

19-241
12/10/19

SFPD Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Policy

An officer should not perform CPR on an individual who does not have a pulse, is not breathing, and a "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) request is made in the following four (4) circumstances:

1. When there is a signed California Emergency Medical Association "Prehospital Orders for Life Sustaining" (POLST) form. The officer should look at the top "A" portion of the form for the checked boxes "Do Resuscitate" or "Do Not Resuscitate."



A valid POLST form should have this symbol in the upper left hand corner.

2. When the patient has an approved medallion such as a "Medic-Alert" inscribed with the words: "Do Not Resuscitate."



A valid medical medallion should have this symbol on it.

3. When the patient's physician is on scene and provides written DNR orders. The physician shall provide a California Physician and Surgeon wallet I.D. card that includes the physician's license number and expiration date.
4. When an individual designated as an agent in the Advance Health Care Directive (AHCD) or as the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC) is on site, he/she may request a DNR. An AHCD typically stipulates a DNR directive. If the agent or designee requests a DNR, he/she must:
 - a. Establish that he/she is the DPAHC or agent designated in the Advance Health Care Directive signed by the patient and two witnesses (with contact information); and
 - b. Not be the primary physician.

Overriding Circumstances that require an officer to initiate CPR:

- A. If an individual is under 18 years of age, the officer shall initiate CPR.
- B. If there is a reasonable level of uncertainty for any reason such as:
 - 1. Difficulty matching the identity of the patient to a DNR request, the officer shall initiate CPR.
 - 2. A dispute over the DNR by next of kin or the Power of Attorney for Health Care who are physically present, the officer shall initiate CPR.

The Body Worn Camera shall be activated during these incidents as the recording may be valuable for evidentiary purposes, as stipulated in DGO 10.11, III, C, 12, **Body Worn Cameras**.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide guidance about the directive.