

Florida Regional Common EMS Protocols 2004, the standard of care followed by the majority of EMS agencies in South Florida, states the following reference DNR's:

1.4 Death in the Field

This protocol is divided into separate sections that cover the different situations of death in the field that the paramedic will be presented with. All patients found in cardiac arrest will receive cardiopulmonary resuscitation unless an exception is met as outlined in the following sections:

- I. Advanced Directives / Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO).
- II. Determination of Death.
- III. Discontinuance of CPR.

I. Advanced Directives / Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO).

A. Legislative Authority:

Under Florida Statutes (F.S.) Chapter 401.45, "Denial of Emergency Treatment Civil Liability" a competent adult, or an incompetent adult, through health care surrogate who was previously chosen, or proxy or guardian, has the right to be able to control decisions regarding medical care, including the withdrawal or withholding of life-prolonging procedures. This legislation authorizes EMS personnel to honor a pre-hospital Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNRO). This legislative authority does not include a "Living Will."

B. Valid Do Not Resuscitate Orders:

1. An original yellow DNRO (DH Form 1896) executed as required by State Statute (with original signatures).
2. A copy on yellow paper (or similar color to the original) of DNRO (DH Form 1896) executed as required by State Statute (with original signatures).
3. The patient is wearing a bracelet, which identifies the patient and indicates the patient has executed a DNRO in accordance with DH Form 1896.
 - a. In this instance, EMS personnel MUST receive the original DNRO (DH Form 1896) or a copy on yellow paper that contains original signatures (attach to EMS Run Report).
4. A DNRO document from a licensed health care facility or hospice facility, either the original or a copy with original signatures. To honor a facility's DNRO it shall:
 - a. State that it is a DNRO and provides instructions that the patient is not to be resuscitated in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.
 - b. Have an effective date, which predates the date the assistance is requested.
 - c. Includes the patient's full legal name typed or printed.
 - d. Be signed by the patient's attending physician and include the physician's medical license number, telephone number, and date completed.
 - e. Be signed and dated by the patient if competent or if the patient is incompetent, by the patient's health care surrogate, legal guardian, or proxy.
 - f. Be signed and dated by at least two witnesses.
5. Oral orders from non-Physician staff members, or telephoned requests from an absent Physician do not adequately assure Paramedics that the proper decision making process has been followed and are NOT acceptable.