

Act No. 127 (H.874). Health; advance directives; hospice care; DNR/COLST orders

An act relating to consent for admission to hospice care and for DNR/COLST orders

This act allows a family member of a patient or a person with a known close relationship to the patient to elect hospice care on the patient's behalf if the patient does not have an agent or guardian or if the agent or guardian is unavailable. It delays from July 1, 2014 until July 1, 2016 the deadline for the Department of Health to adopt rules for criteria for someone other than a patient, agent, or guardian to provide informed consent for a do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order or clinician order for life-sustaining treatment (COLST). The act also requires a guardian to obtain court approval before consenting to a COLST, as was already required for a DNR order.

Effective Date: May 10, 2014