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Act No. 121 (H.690). Health; clinicians; advance directives; DNR/COLST

An act relating to explanation of advance directives and treating clinicians who may sign a DNR/COLST

This act specifies that a health care provider may serve as a witness to a principal's execution of an advance directive, as may the individual who explains the nature and effect of the advance directive if the principal is being admitted to or is a patient in a hospital, or is being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home or residential care facility, at the time the advance directive is being executed. It expands the list of individuals who may serve as the explainer for a principal who is being admitted to or is a resident of a nursing home or residential care facility when executing the advance directive to include a designated hospital explainer, a volunteer at the nursing home or residential care facility, and a clinician who is not employed by the nursing home or residential care facility. The act also expands the description of a clinician who may have signed a patient's do-not-resuscitate (DNR) order or clinician order for life-sustaining treatment (COLST) to include a clinician who treated the patient outside Vermont and held a valid license to practice in the state in which the patient was located at the time the DNR/COLST was issued.

Effective Date: May 3, 2018