

## Organ Donor Registration

If you decide to have either organs or tissues donated upon your death, you may say YES to organ and tissue donation on your donor card or when asked by the examiner at your local driver's license office. You should discuss this decision with your family.

Organ and tissue transplantation saves lives. An average of 15 people die every day because not enough organs are available. For more information about organ and tissue donation please check out the following resources:

Carolina Donor Services  
800-200-2672  
[www.carolinadonorservices.org](http://www.carolinadonorservices.org)

LifeShare of the Carolinas & Eye Bank  
800-932-4483  
[www.lifesharecarolinas.org](http://www.lifesharecarolinas.org)

Coalition on Donation  
704-697-3303  
[www.shareyourlife.org](http://www.shareyourlife.org)

National Marrow Donor Program  
800-627-7692  
[www.marrow.org](http://www.marrow.org)

North Carolina Eye Bank  
336-765-0932  
[www.nceyebank.org](http://www.nceyebank.org)

North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc.  
800-662-7401  
[www.nclf.org](http://www.nclf.org)

United Network for Organ Sharing  
888-894-6361  
[www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)

For Hospice and End of Life Care contact:  
The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care (800)-662-8859  
[www.carolinasendoflifecare.org](http://www.carolinasendoflifecare.org)



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



THE NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE REGISTRY

P.O. Box 29622  
Raleigh, NC 27626-0622

[www.sosnc.com](http://www.sosnc.com)  
[www.nclifelinks.org](http://www.nclifelinks.org)

Phone: 919-807-2167  
Fax: 919-807-2294

Email: [ahcdr@sosnc.com](mailto:ahcdr@sosnc.com)

## Health Care Directive Registry

The North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State maintains a registry where one may file their Advance Health Care Directives. Advance Health Care Directives are legal documents in which you 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 (or Living Will);
- An advance instruction for mental health treatment; or
- A declaration of an anatomical gift (or Organ/Tissue Donor Card).

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.

A declaration of an anatomical gift allows anyone over the age of 18 to make a gift by will, organ donor card or other document.

The Health Care Power of Attorney, Living Will and the Advance Instruction for Mental Health treatment must be notarized before you may submit them to the Secretary of State for filing into the Health Care Registry. The Organ/Tissue Donor Card need not be notarized, but does require your signature and that of two witnesses.

Please note that those documents that are notarized must have a readable image of the Notary Seal in order to be scanned and be accepted by the legal and medical communities. For those seals that are embossed, please use either carbon paper or a pencil to highlight the seal so that the scanner will pick up the image.

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 it works

Please note that first and foremost, registration of your Advance Health Care Directive is entirely voluntary.

Print a registration sheet from our website ([www.sosnc.com](http://www.sosnc.com)) and fill in the required information. For each directive you wish to register with the North Carolina Secretary of State, please attach a \$10.00 fee. Please submit one (1) cover sheet for all directives you wish to file. Mail the registration sheet and directive to the North Carolina Secretary of State to the attention of Advance Health Care Directive Registry, P.O. Box 29622, Raleigh, North Carolina 27626-0622.

Upon receipt of your paperwork we will set up a profile for you in the Secretary of State Knowledge Base (SOSKB) and scan in your paperwork. We will then return all documentation to you along with a registry card that contains our file number and password. Upon receipt of

your card, you will then be able to access your directives over the Internet at [www.sosnc.com](http://www.sosnc.com) or [www.nclifelinks.org](http://www.nclifelinks.org). This site will be available for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Once we have returned your registry card with your access information on it, 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. 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.

Who should you notify of your Advance Health Care Directives? Whether or not you decide to register your directives with the North Carolina Secretary of State, you should notify everyone that needs to know your wishes for any of the above directives. Make sure you tell your doctor, hospital, agent or surrogate and other family members.

## Revocation

You may, at any time, revoke any of your directives filed with the Secretary of State. Simply fill out the Revocation sheet located on our website and have it notarized. Then mail it to the North Carolina Secretary of State to the attention of Advance Health Care Directive Registry. We will revoke (delete) your documents that are filed online and they will no longer be accessible over the Internet. There is no fee for the revocation. The person who originally sent the paperwork is the only one who may revoke a directive.