

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

HOUSE BILL 1567

By: Reynolds

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; amending 63 O.S. 2001, Section 3101.4, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 166, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 3101.4), which relates to advance directives; deleting hydration as a substance that can be authorized to be withdrawn; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 63 O.S. 2001, Section 3101.4, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 166, O.S.L. 2004 (63 O.S. Supp. 2004, Section 3101.4), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3101.4 A. An individual of sound mind and eighteen (18) years of age or older may execute at any time an advance directive governing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment. The advance directive shall be signed by the declarant and witnessed by two individuals who are eighteen (18) years of age or older who are not legatees, devisees or heirs at law.

B. An advance directive shall be in substantially the following form:

Advance Directive for Health Care

I, _____, being of sound mind and eighteen (18) years of age or older, willfully and voluntarily make known my desire, by my instructions to others through my living will, or by my appointment of a health care proxy, or both, that my life shall not be

artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below. I thus do hereby declare:

I. Living Will

a. If my attending physician and another physician determine that I am no longer able to make decisions regarding my medical treatment, I direct my attending physician and other health care providers, pursuant to the Oklahoma Rights of the Terminally Ill or Persistently Unconscious Act, to withhold or withdraw treatment from me under the circumstances I have indicated below by my initials. I understand that I will be given treatment that is necessary for my comfort or to alleviate my pain.

b. If I have a terminal condition or am persistently unconscious:

(1) I direct that life-sustaining treatment shall be withheld or withdrawn if such treatment would only prolong my process of dying, and if my attending physician and another physician determine that I:

(a) have an incurable and irreversible condition that even with the administration of life-sustaining treatment will cause my death within six (6) months, or

(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

(b) am in an irreversible condition in which thought and awareness of self and environment are absent.

(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

(2) I understand that the subject of the artificial administration of nutrition ~~and hydration~~ ~~(food and water)~~ (food) that will only prolong the process of dying from an incurable and irreversible condition or for individuals who have become persistently unconscious is of particular importance. I understand that if I do not initial the "yes" boxes below, artificially administered nutrition ~~and hydration~~ will be administered to me. I further understand that if I initial the "yes" boxes below, I am authorizing the withholding or withdrawal of artificially administered nutrition (food) ~~and hydration~~ ~~(water)~~:

(a) if I have an incurable and irreversible condition that even with the administration of life-sustaining treatment will cause my death within six (6) months, or
(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

(b) if I am in an irreversible condition in which thought and awareness of self and environment are absent.

(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

(3) I direct that (add other medical directives, if any)

_____.

(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

II. My Appointment of My Health Care Proxy

If my attending physician and another physician determine that I am no longer able to make decisions regarding my medical treatment, I direct my attending physician and other health care providers pursuant to the Oklahoma Rights of the Terminally Ill or Persistently Unconscious Act to follow the instructions of _____, whom I appoint as my health care proxy. If my health care proxy is unable or unwilling to serve, I appoint _____ as my alternate health care proxy with the same authority. My health care proxy is authorized to make whatever medical treatment decisions I could make if I were able, except that decisions regarding life-sustaining treatment can be made by my health care proxy or alternate health care proxy only as I have indicated in the foregoing sections.

(Initial one box only)

YES

NO

III. Anatomical Gifts

I direct that at the time of my death my entire body or designated body organs or body parts be donated for purposes of transplantation, therapy, advancement of medical or dental science or research or education pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. Death means either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible

cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem. If I initial the "yes" box below, I specifically donate:

My entire body

Yes

or

The following body organs or parts:

Yes

lungs

liver

pancreas

heart

kidneys

brain

skin

bones/marrow

blood/fluids

tissue

arteries

eyes/cornea/lens

_____.

IV. General Provisions

- a. I understand that if I have been diagnosed as pregnant and that diagnosis is known to my attending physician, this advance directive shall have no force or effect during the course of my pregnancy.
- b. In the absence of my ability to give directions regarding the use of life-sustaining procedures, it is my intention that this advance directive shall be honored by my family and physicians as the final expression of my legal right to refuse medical or surgical treatment including, but not limited to, the administration of life-sustaining procedures, and I accept the consequences of such refusal.
- c. This advance directive shall be in effect until it is revoked.
- d. I understand that I may revoke this advance directive at any time.

- e. I understand and agree that if I have any prior directives, and if I sign this advance directive, my prior directives are revoked.
- f. I understand the full importance of this advance directive and I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this advance directive.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20 __.

(Signature)

City of

County, Oklahoma

Date of birth

(Optional for identification purposes)

This advance directive was signed in my presence.

Witness

_____, Oklahoma

Residence

Witness

_____, Oklahoma

Residence

C. A physician or other health care provider who is furnished the original or a photocopy of the advance directive shall make it a part of the declarant's medical record and, if unwilling to comply with the advance directive, promptly so advise the declarant.

D. In the case of a qualified patient, the patient's health care proxy, in consultation with the attending physician, shall have

the authority to make treatment decisions for the patient including the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures if so indicated in the patient's advance directive.

E. A person executing an advance directive appointing a health care proxy who may not have an attending physician for reasons based on established religious beliefs or tenets may designate an individual other than the designated health care proxy, in lieu of an attending physician and other physician, to determine the lack of decisional capacity of the person. Such designation shall be specified and included as part of the advance directive executed pursuant to the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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