



Advance Care Planning Documents and Options Available in South Carolina (9/15/2015)

	SC Healthcare Power of Attorney (HCPOA)	SC Death with Dignity Act (SC Living Will or "Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death")	EMS DNR Order	POLST/POST Pilot	If No Advance Directive: Adult Healthcare Consent Act
Limited to terminal illness and/or permanent unconscious states	No	Yes	Limited to terminal condition	No	No
Covers a broad range of situations	Yes	No	No-applies only to EMS personnel	Yes	Yes
Covers what you do and do not want	Yes	Yes	No-only allows EMS to withhold or withdraw resuscitative measures (CPR, intubation, etc.)	Yes	No
Requires Governor's Office Ombudsman to witness if in a hospital or nursing home	No	Yes	No	No	No
Witness required?	Yes (2 witnesses; cannot be beneficiary of patient)	Yes (2 witnesses required)	No	No	No
Notary required?	No (notarization is optional)	Yes	No	No	No
It is a physician's order	No – it is an advance directive	No – it is an advance directive	Yes. Physician must sign	Yes. Physician must sign	No
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -HCPOA is the most flexible of all available options. However, if HCPOA and Living Will conflict, then the Living Will takes precedence. -Only invoked when person is unable to make decisions. -Physician must review, consider clinical condition, and then issue medical treatment orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cannot be executed in hospital unless Governor's Office Ombudsman witnesses. -Only invoked when person is unable to make decisions. -Physician must review, consider clinical condition, and then issue medical treatment orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very limited. -Applies only when person is under the care of EMS personnel. -Since it is a physician's order, it can be followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Very flexible and since it is a physician's order it can be followed right away. -Should be reviewed each time person's treatment location changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Priority of proxy decision maker set by statute; often unclear and frequently leads to family disagreements. -Only invoked when person is unable to make decisions. -Appropriate proxy must be identified/contacted; physician should discuss with proxy, consider clinical condition, and then issue medical treatment orders.

