

## DECLARATIONS FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

**127.700 Definitions for ORS 127.700 to 127.737.** As used in ORS 127.700 to 127.737:

(1) “Attending physician” shall have the same meaning as provided in ORS 127.505.

(2) “Attorney-in-fact” means an adult validly appointed under ORS 127.540, 127.700 to 127.737 and 426.385 to make mental health treatment decisions for a principal under a declaration for mental health treatment and also means an alternative attorney-in-fact.

(3) “Declaration” means a document making a declaration of preferences or instructions regarding mental health treatment.

(4) “Health care facility” shall have the same meaning as provided in ORS 127.505.

(5) “Incapable” means that, in the opinion of the court in a protective proceeding under ORS chapter 125, or the opinion of two physicians, a person’s ability to receive and evaluate information effectively or communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that the person currently lacks the capacity to make mental health treatment decisions.

(6) “Mental health treatment” means convulsive treatment, treatment of mental illness with psychoactive medication, admission to and retention in a health care facility for a period not to exceed 17 days for care or treatment of mental illness, and outpatient services.

(7) “Outpatient services” means treatment for a mental or emotional disorder that is obtained by appointment and is provided by an outpatient service as defined in ORS 430.010.

(8) “Provider” means a mental health treatment provider.

(9) “Representative” means “attorney-in-fact” as defined in this section. [1993 c.442 §1; 1995 c.664 §88; 1997 c.563 §1; 1999 c.83 §1; 2001 c.104 §39]

**127.702 Persons who may make declaration for mental health treatment; period of validity.** (1) An adult of sound mind may make a declaration of preferences or instructions regarding mental health treatment. The preferences or instructions may include consent to or refusal of mental health treatment.

(2) A declaration for mental health treatment continues in effect for a period of three years or until revoked. The authority of a named attorney-in-fact and any alternative attorney-in-fact named in the declaration continues in effect as long as the declaration appointing the attorney-in-fact is in effect or until the attorney-in-fact has withdrawn. If a declaration for mental health treatment has been invoked and is in effect at the expiration of three years after its execution, the declaration remains effective until the principal is no longer incapable. [1993 c.442 §2]

**127.703 Required policies regarding mental health treatment rights information; declarations for mental health treatment.** (1) All health care and mental health care organizations shall maintain written policies and procedures, applicable to all capable adults who are receiving mental health treatment by or through the organization, that provide for:

(a) Delivering to those individuals the following information and materials, in written form, without recommendation:

(A) Information on the rights of the individual under Oregon law to make mental health treatment decisions, including the right to accept or refuse mental health treatment and the right to execute declarations for mental health treatment;

(B) Information on the policies of the organization with respect to implementation of the rights of the individual under Oregon law to make mental health treatment decisions;

(C) A copy of the declaration for mental health treatment set forth in ORS 127.736; and

(D) The name of a person who can provide additional information concerning the forms for declarations for mental health treatment.

(b) Documenting in a prominent place in the individual's medical record whether the individual has executed a declaration for mental health treatment.

(c) Ensuring compliance by the organization with Oregon law relating to declarations for mental health treatment.

(d) Educating the staff and the community on issues relating to declarations for mental health treatment.

(2) An organization need not furnish a copy of a declaration for mental health treatment to an individual if the organization has reason to believe that the individual has received a copy of a declaration in the form set forth in ORS 127.736 within the preceding 12-month period or has a validly executed declaration.

(3) The requirements of this section are in addition to any requirements that may be imposed under federal law and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with federal law. Nothing in this section requires any health care or mental health care organization, or any employee or agent of an organization, to act in a manner inconsistent with federal law or contrary to individual religious or philosophical beliefs.

(4) No health care or mental health care organization shall be subject to criminal prosecution or civil liability for failure to comply with this section.

(5) For purposes of this section, "health care or mental health care organization" means a health care organization as defined in ORS 127.646 or a community mental health program or facility that provides mental health services. [1997 c.563 §5]

**127.705 Designation of attorney-in-fact for decisions about mental health treatment.** A declaration may designate a competent adult to act as attorney-in-fact to make decisions about mental health treatment. An alternative attorney-in-fact may also be designated to act as attorney-in-fact if the original designee is unable or unwilling to act at any time. An attorney-in-fact who has accepted the appointment in writing may make decisions about mental health treatment on behalf of the principal only when the principal is incapable. The decisions must be consistent with any desires the principal has expressed in the declaration. [1993 c.442 §3]

**127.707 Execution of declaration; witnesses.** A declaration is effective only if it is signed by the principal and two competent adult witnesses. The witnesses must attest that the principal is known to them, signed the declaration in their presence and appears to be of sound mind and not under duress, fraud or undue influence. Persons specified in ORS 127.730 may not act as witnesses. [1993 c.442 §4]

**127.710 Operation of declaration; physician or provider to act in accordance with declaration.** A declaration becomes operative when it is delivered to the principal's physician or other mental health treatment provider and remains valid until revoked or expired. The physician or provider shall act in accordance with an operative declaration when the principal has been found to be incapable. The physician or provider shall continue to obtain the principal's informed consent to all mental health treatment decisions if the principal is capable of providing informed consent or refusal. [1993 c.442 §5]

**127.712 Scope of authority of attorney-in-fact; powers and duties; limitation on liability.** (1) The attorney-in-fact does not have authority to make mental health treatment decisions unless the principal is incapable.

(2) The attorney-in-fact is not, as a result of acting in that capacity, personally liable for the cost of treatment provided to the principal.

(3) Except to the extent the right is limited by the declaration or any federal law, an attorney-in-fact has the same right as the principal to receive information regarding the proposed mental health treatment and to receive, review and consent to disclosure of medical records relating to that treatment. This right of access does not waive any evidentiary privilege.

(4) In exercising authority under the declaration, the attorney-in-fact has a duty to act consistently with the desires of the principal as expressed in the declaration. If the principal's desires are not expressed in the declaration and not otherwise known by the attorney-in-fact, the attorney-in-fact has a duty to act in what the attorney-in-fact in good faith believes to be the best interests of the principal.

(5) An attorney-in-fact is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability or professional disciplinary action for any action taken in good faith pursuant to a declaration for mental health treatment. [1993 c.442 §6]

**127.715 Prohibitions against requiring person to execute or refrain from executing declaration.** A person shall not be required to execute or to refrain from executing a declaration as a criterion for insurance, as a condition for receiving mental or physical health services or as a condition of discharge from a health care facility. [1993 c.442 §7]

**127.717 Declaration to be made part of medical record; physician or provider to comply with declaration; withdrawal of physician or provider.** Upon being presented with a declaration, a physician or other provider shall make the declaration a part of the principal's medical record. When acting under authority of a declaration, a physician or provider must comply with it to the fullest extent possible, consistent with reasonable medical practice, the availability of treatments requested and applicable law. If the physician or other provider is unable or unwilling at any time to carry out preferences or instructions contained in a declaration or the decisions of the attorney-in-fact, the physician or provider may withdraw from providing treatment if withdrawal is consistent with the exercise of independent medical judgment that is in the best interest of the principal. Upon withdrawing, a physician or provider shall promptly notify the principal

and the attorney-in-fact and document the notification in the principal's medical record. [1993 c.442 §8; 1999 c.83 §2]

**127.720 Circumstances in which physician or provider may disregard declaration.** (1) The physician or provider may subject the principal to mental health treatment in a manner contrary to the principal's wishes as expressed in a declaration for mental health treatment only:

(a) If the principal is committed to the Department of Human Services pursuant to ORS 426.005 to 426.390 and treatment is authorized in compliance with ORS 426.385 (3) and administrative rule; or

(b) In cases of emergency endangering life or health.

(2) A declaration does not limit any authority provided in ORS 426.005 to 426.390 either to take a person into custody, or to admit, retain or treat a person in a health care facility. [1993 c.442 §9; 1995 c.141 §2]

**127.722 Revocation of declaration.** A declaration may be revoked in whole or in part at any time by the principal if the principal is not incapable. A revocation is effective when a capable principal communicates the revocation to the attending physician or other provider. The attending physician or other provider shall note the revocation as part of the principal's medical record. [1993 c.442 §10]

**127.725 Limitations on liability of physician or provider.** A physician or provider who administers or does not administer mental health treatment according to and in good faith reliance upon the validity of a declaration is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability or professional disciplinary action resulting from a subsequent finding of a declaration's invalidity. [1993 c.442 §11]

**127.727 Persons prohibited from serving as attorney-in-fact.** None of the following may serve as attorney-in-fact:

(1) The attending physician or mental health service provider or an employee of the physician or provider, if the physician, provider or employee is unrelated to the principal by blood, marriage or adoption.

(2) An owner, operator or employee of a health care facility in which the principal is a patient or resident, if the owner, operator or employee is unrelated to the principal by blood, marriage or adoption. [1993 c.442 §12]

**127.730 Persons prohibited from serving as witnesses to declaration.** None of the following may serve as a witness to the signing of a declaration:

(1) The attending physician or mental health service provider or a relative of the physician or provider;

(2) An owner, operator or relative of an owner or operator of a health care facility in which the principal is a patient or resident; or

(3) A person related to the principal by blood, marriage or adoption. [1993 c.442 §13]

**127.732 Withdrawal of attorney-in-fact; rescission of withdrawal.** (1) An attorney-in-fact may withdraw by giving notice to the principal. If a principal is

incapable, the attorney-in-fact may withdraw by giving notice to the attending physician or provider. The attending physician or provider shall note the withdrawal as part of the principal's medical record.

(2) A person who has withdrawn under the provisions of subsection (1) of this section may rescind the withdrawal by executing an acceptance after the date of the withdrawal. The acceptance must be in the same form as provided by ORS 127.736 for accepting an appointment. A person who rescinds a withdrawal must give notice to the principal if the principal is capable or to the principal's health care provider if the principal is incapable. [1993 c.442 §14]

**127.735** [1993 c.442 §15; repealed by 1997 c.563 §2 (127.736 enacted in lieu of 127.735)]

**127.736 Form of declaration.** A declaration for mental health treatment shall be in substantially the following form:

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DECLARATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being an adult of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make this declaration for mental health treatment. I want this declaration to be followed if a court or two physicians determine that I am unable to make decisions for myself because my ability to receive and evaluate information effectively or communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that I lack the capacity to refuse or consent to mental health treatment. "Mental health treatment" means treatment of mental illness with psychoactive medication, admission to and retention in a health care facility for a period up to 17 days, convulsive treatment and outpatient services that are specified in this declaration.

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CHOICE OF DECISION MAKER

If I become incapable of giving or withholding informed consent for mental health treatment, I want these decisions to be made by: (INITIAL ONLY ONE)

\_\_\_ My appointed representative consistent with my desires, or, if my desires are unknown by my representative, in what my representative believes to be my best interests.

\_\_\_ By the mental health treatment provider who requires my consent in order to treat me, but only as specifically authorized in this declaration.

APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE

If I have chosen to appoint a representative to make mental health treatment decisions for me when I am incapable, I am naming that person here. I may also name an alternate representative to serve. Each person I appoint must accept my appointment in order to serve. I understand that I am not required to appoint a representative in order to complete this declaration.

I hereby appoint:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



I DO NOT CONSENT TO THE FOLLOWING MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT:  
(Consider including your reasons, such as past adverse reaction, allergies or misdiagnosis. Be aware that a person may be treated without consent if the person is held pursuant to civil commitment law.)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT MY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT NEEDS: (Consider including mental or physical health history, dietary requirements, religious concerns, people to notify and other matters of importance.)

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YOU MUST SIGN HERE FOR THIS DECLARATION TO BE EFFECTIVE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature/Date)

**AFFIRMATION OF WITNESSES**

I affirm that the person signing this declaration:

- (a) Is personally known to me;
- (b) Signed or acknowledged his or her signature on this declaration in my presence;
- (c) Appears to be of sound mind and not under duress, fraud or undue influence;

- (d) Is not related to me by blood, marriage or adoption;
- (e) Is not a patient or resident in a facility that I or my relative owns or operates;
- (f) Is not my patient and does not receive mental health services from me or my relative; and
- (g) Has not appointed me as a representative in this document.

Witnessed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Witness  
 /Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Printed Name of Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Witness  
 /Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Printed Name of Witness)

**ACCEPTANCE OF APPOINTMENT  
 AS REPRESENTATIVE**

I accept this appointment and agree to serve as representative to make mental health treatment decisions. I understand that I must act consistently with the desires of the person I represent, as expressed in this declaration or, if not expressed, as otherwise known by me. If I do not know the desires of the person I represent, I have a duty to act in what I believe in good faith to be that person’s best interest. I understand that this document gives me authority to make decisions about mental health treatment only while that person has been determined to be incapable of making those decisions by a court or two physicians. I understand that the person who appointed me may revoke this declaration in whole or in part by communicating the revocation to the attending physician or other provider when the person is not incapable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of  
 Representative/Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Printed name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of Alternate  
 Representative/Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Printed name)

**NOTICE TO PERSON  
 MAKING A DECLARATION FOR  
 MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

This is an important legal document. It creates a declaration for mental health treatment. Before signing this document, you should know these important facts:  
 This document allows you to make decisions in advance about certain types of mental health treatment: psychoactive medication, short-term (not to exceed 17 days) admission to a treatment facility, convulsive treatment and outpatient services. Outpatient services are mental health services provided by appointment by licensed professionals and programs. The instructions that you include in this declaration will be followed only if a court or two physicians believe that you are incapable of making treatment decisions. Otherwise, you will be considered capable to give or withhold consent for the treatments.

Your instructions may be overridden if you are being held pursuant to civil commitment law.

You may also appoint a person as your representative to make treatment decisions for you if you become incapable. The person you appoint has a duty to act consistently with your desires as stated in this document or, if not stated, as otherwise known by the representative. If your representative does not know your desires, he or she must make decisions in your best interests. For the appointment to be effective, the person you appoint must accept the appointment in writing. The person also has the right to withdraw from acting as your representative at any time. A “representative” is also referred to as an “attorney-in-fact” in state law but this person does not need to be an attorney at law.

This document will continue in effect for a period of three years unless you become incapable of participating in mental health treatment decisions. If this occurs, the directive will continue in effect until you are no longer incapable.

You have the right to revoke this document in whole or in part at any time you have not been determined to be incapable. **YOU MAY NOT REVOKE THIS DECLARATION WHEN YOU ARE CONSIDERED INCAPABLE BY A COURT OR TWO PHYSICIANS.** A revocation is effective when it is communicated to your attending physician or other provider.

If there is anything in this document that you do not understand, you should ask a lawyer to explain it to you. This declaration will not be valid unless it is signed by two qualified witnesses who are personally known to you and who are present when you sign or acknowledge your signature.

#### NOTICE TO PHYSICIAN OR PROVIDER

Under Oregon law, a person may use this declaration to provide consent for mental health treatment or to appoint a representative to make mental health treatment decisions when the person is incapable of making those decisions. A person is “incapable” when, in the opinion of a court or two physicians, the person’s ability to receive and evaluate information effectively or communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that the person currently lacks the capacity to make mental health treatment decisions. This document becomes operative when it is delivered to the person’s physician or other provider and remains valid until revoked or expired. Upon being presented with this declaration, a physician or provider must make it a part of the person’s medical record. When acting under authority of the declaration, a physician or provider must comply with it to the fullest extent possible. If the physician or provider is unwilling to comply with the declaration, the physician or provider may withdraw from providing treatment consistent with professional judgment and must promptly notify the person and the person’s representative and document the notification in the person’s medical record. A physician or provider who administers or does not administer mental health treatment according to and in good faith reliance upon the validity of this declaration is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability or professional disciplinary action resulting from a subsequent finding of the declaration’s invalidity.

**127.737 Certain other laws applicable to declaration.** (1) ORS 127.525, 127.550, 127.565, 127.570, 127.575 and 127.995 apply to a declaration for mental health treatment.

(2) For purposes of this section only, a declaration shall be considered a power of attorney for health care, without regard to whether the declaration appoints an attorney-in-fact. [1993 c.442 §17]

## THE OREGON DEATH WITH DIGNITY ACT

### (General Provisions)

#### (Section 1)

**Note:** The division headings, subdivision headings and leadlines for 127.800 to 127.890, 127.895 and 127.897 were enacted as part of Ballot Measure 16 (1994) and were not provided by Legislative Counsel.

**127.800 §1.01. Definitions.** The following words and phrases, whenever used in ORS 127.800 to 127.897, have the following meanings:

(1) “Adult” means an individual who is 18 years of age or older.

(2) “Attending physician” means the physician who has primary responsibility for the care of the patient and treatment of the patient’s terminal disease.

(3) “Capable” means that in the opinion of a court or in the opinion of the patient’s attending physician or consulting physician, psychiatrist or psychologist, a patient has the ability to make and communicate health care decisions to health care providers, including communication through persons familiar with the patient’s manner of communicating if those persons are available.

(4) “Consulting physician” means a physician who is qualified by specialty or experience to make a professional diagnosis and prognosis regarding the patient’s disease.

(5) “Counseling” means one or more consultations as necessary between a state licensed psychiatrist or psychologist and a patient for the purpose of determining that the patient is capable and not suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment.

(6) “Health care provider” means a person licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or permitted by the law of this state to administer health care or dispense medication in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession, and includes a health care facility.

(7) “Informed decision” means a decision by a qualified patient, to request and obtain a prescription to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, that is based on an appreciation of the relevant facts and after being fully informed by the attending physician of:

(a) His or her medical diagnosis;

(b) His or her prognosis;

(c) The potential risks associated with taking the medication to be prescribed;

(d) The probable result of taking the medication to be prescribed; and

(e) The feasible alternatives, including, but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care and pain control.

(8) “Medically confirmed” means the medical opinion of the attending physician has been confirmed by a consulting physician who has examined the patient and the patient’s relevant medical records.

(9) “Patient” means a person who is under the care of a physician.

(10) “Physician” means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy licensed to practice medicine by the Board of Medical Examiners for the State of Oregon.

(11) “Qualified patient” means a capable adult who is a resident of Oregon and has satisfied the requirements of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 in order to obtain a prescription for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner.

(12) “Terminal disease” means an incurable and irreversible disease that has been medically confirmed and will, within reasonable medical judgment, produce death within six months. [1995 c.3 §1.01; 1999 c.423 §1]

(Written Request for Medication to End One’s Life in a Humane and Dignified Manner)

(Section 2)

**127.805 §2.01. Who may initiate a written request for medication.** (1) An adult who is capable, is a resident of Oregon, and has been determined by the attending physician and consulting physician to be suffering from a terminal disease, and who has voluntarily expressed his or her wish to die, may make a written request for medication for the purpose of ending his or her life in a humane and dignified manner in accordance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897.

(2) No person shall qualify under the provisions of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 solely because of age or disability. [1995 c.3 §2.01; 1999 c.423 §2]

**127.810 §2.02. Form of the written request.** (1) A valid request for medication under ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall be in substantially the form described in ORS 127.897, signed and dated by the patient and witnessed by at least two individuals who, in the presence of the patient, attest that to the best of their knowledge and belief the patient is capable, acting voluntarily, and is not being coerced to sign the request.

(2) One of the witnesses shall be a person who is not:

(a) A relative of the patient by blood, marriage or adoption;

(b) A person who at the time the request is signed would be entitled to any portion of the estate of the qualified patient upon death under any will or by operation of law; or

(c) An owner, operator or employee of a health care facility where the qualified patient is receiving medical treatment or is a resident.

(3) The patient’s attending physician at the time the request is signed shall not be a witness.

(4) If the patient is a patient in a long term care facility at the time the written request is made, one of the witnesses shall be an individual designated by the facility and having the qualifications specified by the Department of Human Services by rule. [1995 c.3 §2.02]

(Safeguards)

(Section 3)

**127.815 §3.01. Attending physician responsibilities.** (1) The attending physician shall:

- (a) Make the initial determination of whether a patient has a terminal disease, is capable, and has made the request voluntarily;
  - (b) Request that the patient demonstrate Oregon residency pursuant to ORS 127.860;
  - (c) To ensure that the patient is making an informed decision, inform the patient of:
    - (A) His or her medical diagnosis;
    - (B) His or her prognosis;
    - (C) The potential risks associated with taking the medication to be prescribed;
    - (D) The probable result of taking the medication to be prescribed; and
    - (E) The feasible alternatives, including, but not limited to, comfort care, hospice care and pain control;
  - (d) Refer the patient to a consulting physician for medical confirmation of the diagnosis, and for a determination that the patient is capable and acting voluntarily;
  - (e) Refer the patient for counseling if appropriate pursuant to ORS 127.825;
  - (f) Recommend that the patient notify next of kin;
  - (g) Counsel the patient about the importance of having another person present when the patient takes the medication prescribed pursuant to ORS 127.800 to 127.897 and of not taking the medication in a public place;
  - (h) Inform the patient that he or she has an opportunity to rescind the request at any time and in any manner, and offer the patient an opportunity to rescind at the end of the 15 day waiting period pursuant to ORS 127.840;
  - (i) Verify, immediately prior to writing the prescription for medication under ORS 127.800 to 127.897, that the patient is making an informed decision;
  - (j) Fulfill the medical record documentation requirements of ORS 127.855;
  - (k) Ensure that all appropriate steps are carried out in accordance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897 prior to writing a prescription for medication to enable a qualified patient to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner; and
  - (L)(A) Dispense medications directly, including ancillary medications intended to facilitate the desired effect to minimize the patient's discomfort, provided the attending physician is registered as a dispensing physician with the Board of Medical Examiners, has a current Drug Enforcement Administration certificate and complies with any applicable administrative rule; or
  - (B) With the patient's written consent:
    - (i) Contact a pharmacist and inform the pharmacist of the prescription; and
    - (ii) Deliver the written prescription personally or by mail to the pharmacist, who will dispense the medications to either the patient, the attending physician or an expressly identified agent of the patient.
- (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the attending physician may sign the patient's death certificate. [1995 c.3 §3.01; 1999 c.423 §3]

**127.820 §3.02. Consulting physician confirmation.** Before a patient is qualified under ORS 127.800 to 127.897, a consulting physician shall examine the patient and his or her relevant medical records and confirm, in writing, the attending physician's diagnosis that the patient is suffering from a terminal disease, and verify that the patient is capable, is acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision. [1995 c.3 §3.02]

**127.825 §3.03. Counseling referral.** If in the opinion of the attending physician or the consulting physician a patient may be suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment, either physician shall refer the patient for counseling. No medication to end a patient's life in a humane and dignified manner shall be prescribed until the person performing the counseling determines that the patient is not suffering from a psychiatric or psychological disorder or depression causing impaired judgment. [1995 c.3 §3.03; 1999 c.423 §4]

**127.830 §3.04. Informed decision.** No person shall receive a prescription for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner unless he or she has made an informed decision as defined in ORS 127.800 (7). Immediately prior to writing a prescription for medication under ORS 127.800 to 127.897, the attending physician shall verify that the patient is making an informed decision. [1995 c.3 §3.04]

**127.835 §3.05. Family notification.** The attending physician shall recommend that the patient notify the next of kin of his or her request for medication pursuant to ORS 127.800 to 127.897. A patient who declines or is unable to notify next of kin shall not have his or her request denied for that reason. [1995 c.3 §3.05; 1999 c.423 §6]

**127.840 §3.06. Written and oral requests.** In order to receive a prescription for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, a qualified patient shall have made an oral request and a written request, and reiterate the oral request to his or her attending physician no less than fifteen (15) days after making the initial oral request. At the time the qualified patient makes his or her second oral request, the attending physician shall offer the patient an opportunity to rescind the request. [1995 c.3 §3.06]

**127.845 §3.07. Right to rescind request.** A patient may rescind his or her request at any time and in any manner without regard to his or her mental state. No prescription for medication under ORS 127.800 to 127.897 may be written without the attending physician offering the qualified patient an opportunity to rescind the request. [1995 c.3 §3.07]

**127.850 §3.08. Waiting periods.** No less than fifteen (15) days shall elapse between the patient's initial oral request and the writing of a prescription under ORS 127.800 to 127.897. No less than 48 hours shall elapse between the patient's written request and the writing of a prescription under ORS 127.800 to 127.897. [1995 c.3 §3.08]

**127.855 §3.09. Medical record documentation requirements.** The following shall be documented or filed in the patient's medical record:

(1) All oral requests by a patient for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner;

(2) All written requests by a patient for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner;

(3) The attending physician's diagnosis and prognosis, determination that the patient is capable, acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision;

(4) The consulting physician's diagnosis and prognosis, and verification that the patient is capable, acting voluntarily and has made an informed decision;

(5) A report of the outcome and determinations made during counseling, if performed;

(6) The attending physician's offer to the patient to rescind his or her request at the time of the patient's second oral request pursuant to ORS 127.840; and

(7) A note by the attending physician indicating that all requirements under ORS 127.800 to 127.897 have been met and indicating the steps taken to carry out the request, including a notation of the medication prescribed. [1995 c.3 §3.09]

**127.860 §3.10. Residency requirement.** Only requests made by Oregon residents under ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall be granted. Factors demonstrating Oregon residency include but are not limited to:

(1) Possession of an Oregon driver license;

(2) Registration to vote in Oregon;

(3) Evidence that the person owns or leases property in Oregon; or

(4) Filing of an Oregon tax return for the most recent tax year. [1995 c.3 §3.10; 1999 c.423 §8]

**127.865 §3.11. Reporting requirements.** (1)(a) The Department of Human Services shall annually review a sample of records maintained pursuant to ORS 127.800 to 127.897.

(b) The department shall require any health care provider upon dispensing medication pursuant to ORS 127.800 to 127.897 to file a copy of the dispensing record with the department.

(2) The department shall make rules to facilitate the collection of information regarding compliance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897. Except as otherwise required by law, the information collected shall not be a public record and may not be made available for inspection by the public.

(3) The department shall generate and make available to the public an annual statistical report of information collected under subsection (2) of this section. [1995 c.3 §3.11; 1999 c.423 §9; 2001 c.104 §40]

**127.870 §3.12. Effect on construction of wills, contracts and statutes.** (1) No provision in a contract, will or other agreement, whether written or oral, to the extent the provision would affect whether a person may make or rescind a request for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner, shall be valid.

(2) No obligation owing under any currently existing contract shall be conditioned or affected by the making or rescinding of a request, by a person, for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. [1995 c.3 §3.12]

**127.875 §3.13. Insurance or annuity policies.** The sale, procurement, or issuance of any life, health, or accident insurance or annuity policy or the rate charged for any policy shall not be conditioned upon or affected by the making or rescinding of a request, by a person, for medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. Neither shall a qualified patient's act of ingesting medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner have an effect upon a life, health, or accident insurance or annuity policy. [1995 c.3 §3.13]

**127.880 §3.14. Construction of Act.** Nothing in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall be construed to authorize a physician or any other person to end a patient's life by lethal injection, mercy killing or active euthanasia. Actions taken in accordance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall not, for any purpose, constitute suicide, assisted suicide, mercy killing or homicide, under the law. [1995 c.3 §3.14]

(Immunities and Liabilities)

(Section 4)

**127.885 §4.01. Immunities; basis for prohibiting health care provider from participation; notification; permissible sanctions.** Except as provided in ORS 127.890:

(1) No person shall be subject to civil or criminal liability or professional disciplinary action for participating in good faith compliance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897. This includes being present when a qualified patient takes the prescribed medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner.

(2) No professional organization or association, or health care provider, may subject a person to censure, discipline, suspension, loss of license, loss of privileges, loss of membership or other penalty for participating or refusing to participate in good faith compliance with ORS 127.800 to 127.897.

(3) No request by a patient for or provision by an attending physician of medication in good faith compliance with the provisions of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall constitute neglect for any purpose of law or provide the sole basis for the appointment of a guardian or conservator.

(4) No health care provider shall be under any duty, whether by contract, by statute or by any other legal requirement to participate in the provision to a qualified patient of medication to end his or her life in a humane and dignified manner. If a health care provider is unable or unwilling to carry out a patient's request under ORS 127.800 to 127.897, and the patient transfers his or her care to a new health care provider, the prior health care provider shall transfer, upon request, a copy of the patient's relevant medical records to the new health care provider.

(5)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care provider may prohibit another health care provider from participating in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 on the premises of the prohibiting provider if the prohibiting provider has notified the health care provider of the prohibiting provider's policy regarding participating in ORS 127.800 to 127.897. Nothing in this paragraph prevents a health care provider from providing

health care services to a patient that do not constitute participation in ORS 127.800 to 127.897.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) to (4) of this section, a health care provider may subject another health care provider to the sanctions stated in this paragraph if the sanctioning health care provider has notified the sanctioned provider prior to participation in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 that it prohibits participation in ORS 127.800 to 127.897:

(A) Loss of privileges, loss of membership or other sanction provided pursuant to the medical staff bylaws, policies and procedures of the sanctioning health care provider if the sanctioned provider is a member of the sanctioning provider's medical staff and participates in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 while on the health care facility premises, as defined in ORS 442.015, of the sanctioning health care provider, but not including the private medical office of a physician or other provider;

(B) Termination of lease or other property contract or other nonmonetary remedies provided by lease contract, not including loss or restriction of medical staff privileges or exclusion from a provider panel, if the sanctioned provider participates in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 while on the premises of the sanctioning health care provider or on property that is owned by or under the direct control of the sanctioning health care provider; or

(C) Termination of contract or other nonmonetary remedies provided by contract if the sanctioned provider participates in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 while acting in the course and scope of the sanctioned provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to prevent:

(i) A health care provider from participating in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 while acting outside the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor; or

(ii) A patient from contracting with his or her attending physician and consulting physician to act outside the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider.

(c) A health care provider that imposes sanctions pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection must follow all due process and other procedures the sanctioning health care provider may have that are related to the imposition of sanctions on another health care provider.

(d) For purposes of this subsection:

(A) "Notify" means a separate statement in writing to the health care provider specifically informing the health care provider prior to the provider's participation in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 of the sanctioning health care provider's policy about participation in activities covered by ORS 127.800 to 127.897.

(B) "Participate in ORS 127.800 to 127.897" means to perform the duties of an attending physician pursuant to ORS 127.815, the consulting physician function pursuant to ORS 127.820 or the counseling function pursuant to ORS 127.825. "Participate in ORS 127.800 to 127.897" does not include:

(i) Making an initial determination that a patient has a terminal disease and informing the patient of the medical prognosis;

(ii) Providing information about the Oregon Death with Dignity Act to a patient upon the request of the patient;

(iii) Providing a patient, upon the request of the patient, with a referral to another physician; or

(iv) A patient contracting with his or her attending physician and consulting physician to act outside of the course and scope of the provider's capacity as an employee or independent contractor of the sanctioning health care provider.

(6) Suspension or termination of staff membership or privileges under subsection (5) of this section is not reportable under ORS 441.820. Action taken pursuant to ORS 127.810, 127.815, 127.820 or 127.825 shall not be the sole basis for a report of unprofessional or dishonorable conduct under ORS 677.415 (3), (4), (5) or (6).

(7) No provision of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall be construed to allow a lower standard of care for patients in the community where the patient is treated or a similar community. [1995 c.3 §4.01; 1999 c.423 §10; 2003 c.554 §3]

**Note:** As originally enacted by the people, the headline to section 4.01 read "Immunities." The remainder of the headline was added by editorial action.

**127.890 §4.02. Liabilities.** (1) A person who without authorization of the patient willfully alters or forges a request for medication or conceals or destroys a rescission of that request with the intent or effect of causing the patient's death shall be guilty of a Class A felony.

(2) A person who coerces or exerts undue influence on a patient to request medication for the purpose of ending the patient's life, or to destroy a rescission of such a request, shall be guilty of a Class A felony.

(3) Nothing in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 limits further liability for civil damages resulting from other negligent conduct or intentional misconduct by any person.

(4) The penalties in ORS 127.800 to 127.897 do not preclude criminal penalties applicable under other law for conduct which is inconsistent with the provisions of ORS 127.800 to 127.897. [1995 c.3 §4.02]

**127.892 Claims by governmental entity for costs incurred.** Any governmental entity that incurs costs resulting from a person terminating his or her life pursuant to the provisions of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 in a public place shall have a claim against the estate of the person to recover such costs and reasonable attorney fees related to enforcing the claim. [1999 c.423 §5a]

(Severability)

(Section 5)

**127.895 §5.01. Severability.** Any section of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 being held invalid as to any person or circumstance shall not affect the application of any other section of ORS 127.800 to 127.897 which can be given full effect without the invalid section or application. [1995 c.3 §5.01]

(Form of the Request)

(Section 6)

**127.897 §6.01. Form of the request.** A request for a medication as authorized by ORS 127.800 to 127.897 shall be in substantially the following form:

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REQUEST FOR MEDICATION  
TO END MY LIFE IN A HUMANE  
AND DIGNIFIED MANNER

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am an adult of sound mind.

I am suffering from \_\_\_\_\_, which my attending physician has determined is a terminal disease and which has been medically confirmed by a consulting physician.

I have been fully informed of my diagnosis, prognosis, the nature of medication to be prescribed and potential associated risks, the expected result, and the feasible alternatives, including comfort care, hospice care and pain control.

I request that my attending physician prescribe medication that will end my life in a humane and dignified manner.

INITIAL ONE:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have informed my family of my decision and taken their opinions into consideration.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have decided not to inform my family of my decision.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have no family to inform of my decision.

I understand that I have the right to rescind this request at any time.

I understand the full import of this request and I expect to die when I take the medication to be prescribed. I further understand that although most deaths occur within three hours, my death may take longer and my physician has counseled me about this possibility.

I make this request voluntarily and without reservation, and I accept full moral responsibility for my actions.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

DECLARATION OF WITNESSES

We declare that the person signing this request:

- (a) Is personally known to us or has provided proof of identity;
- (b) Signed this request in our presence;
- (c) Appears to be of sound mind and not under duress, fraud or undue influence;
- (d) Is not a patient for whom either of us is attending physician.

\_\_\_\_\_ Witness 1/Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Witness 2/Date

NOTE: One witness shall not be a relative (by blood, marriage or adoption) of the person signing this request, shall not be entitled to any portion of the person's estate upon death and shall not own, operate or be employed at a health care facility where the person is a patient or resident. If the patient is an inpatient at a health care facility, one of the witnesses shall be an individual designated by the facility.

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[1995 c.3 §6.01; 1999 c.423 §11]

## PENALTIES

**127.990** [Formerly part of 97.990; repealed by 1993 c.767 §29]

**127.995 Penalties.** (1) It shall be a Class A felony for a person without authorization of the principal to willfully alter, forge, conceal or destroy an instrument, the reinstatement or revocation of an instrument or any other evidence or document reflecting the principal's desires and interests, with the intent and effect of causing a withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures or of artificially administered nutrition and hydration which hastens the death of the principal.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (1) of this section, it shall be a Class A misdemeanor for a person without authorization of the principal to willfully alter, forge, conceal or destroy an instrument, the reinstatement or revocation of an instrument, or any other evidence or document reflecting the principal's desires and interests with the intent or effect of affecting a health care decision. [Formerly 127.585]