

(2) THE DISTRIBUTION TO PATIENTS OF WRITTEN ADVANCE DIRECTIVES IN A FORM PROVIDED IN THIS SUBTITLE AND ASSISTANCE TO PATIENTS IN THE COMPLETION AND EXECUTION OF SUCH FORMS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW.

(D) PRESUMPTIONS. - AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE VOLUNTARILY BY A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE PROVISION, WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE-SUSTAINING PROCEDURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN GOOD FAITH.

5-610. WILLFUL DESTRUCTION, CONCEALMENT, DAMAGE, ETC., OF DECLARATION OR REVOCATION; PENALTIES.

(A) ANY PERSON WHO WILLFULLY CONCEALS, CANCELS, DEFACES, OBLITERATES, OR DAMAGES THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE OF ANOTHER WITHOUT THE DECLARANT'S OR PATIENT'S CONSENT OR WHO FALSIFIES OR FORGES A REVOCATION OF THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE OF ANOTHER, THEREBY CAUSING LIFE-SUSTAINING PROCEDURES TO BE UTILIZED IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED INTENT OF THE PATIENT, SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH.

(B) ANY PERSON WHO FALSIFIES OR FORGES THE ADVANCE DIRECTIVE OF ANOTHER, OR FALSIFIES OR FORGES AN AFFIDAVIT UNDER § 5-605 OF THIS SUBTITLE, OR WILLFULLY CONCEALS OR WITHHOLDS PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE REVOCATION OF AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE WITH THE INTENT TO CAUSE A WITHHOLDING OR WITHDRAWAL OF LIFE-SUSTAINING PROCEDURES, CONTRARY TO THE WISHES OF THE DECLARANT AND THEREBY, BECAUSE OF SUCH ACT, DIRECTLY CAUSES LIFE-SUSTAINING PROCEDURES TO BE WITHHELD OR WITHDRAWN AND DEATH TO BE HASTENED, SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH.

(C) THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTIES PROVIDED BY LAW.

5-611. MEDICALLY ~~UNNECESSARY~~ INEFFECTIVE TREATMENT NOT REQUIRED; MERCY KILLING OR EUTHANASIA PROHIBITED; CONSTRUCTION OF SUBTITLE.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 5-613(A)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE, NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A PHYSICIAN TO PRESCRIBE OR RENDER MEDICAL TREATMENT TO A PATIENT THAT THE PHYSICIAN DETERMINES TO BE ETHICALLY INAPPROPRIATE.

(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 5-613(A)(3) OF THIS SUBTITLE, NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A PHYSICIAN TO PRESCRIBE OR RENDER MEDICALLY INEFFECTIVE TREATMENT.