

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article - Health - General**

5-601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) "Advance directive" means:

(1) A witnessed written document, voluntarily executed by the declarant in accordance with the requirements of this subtitle; or

(2) A witnessed oral statement, made by the declarant in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle.

5-615.

(a) In this section, "health care facility" has the meaning stated in § 19-114 of this article.

(b) Each health care facility shall provide each individual on admittance to the facility information concerning the rights of the individual to make decisions concerning health care, including the right to accept or refuse treatment, and the right to make an advance directive, including a living will.

(c) (1) ~~IN THIS SUBSECTION, "INFORMATION ON AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE" INCLUDES THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL DEVELOP A FORM AN INFORMATION SHEET THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION RELATING TO ADVANCE DIRECTIVES, WHICH MAY SHALL INCLUDE:~~

(I) WRITTEN STATEMENTS INFORMING AN INDIVIDUAL THAT AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE:

1. IS A USEFUL, LEGAL, AND WELL-ESTABLISHED WAY FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO DIRECT MEDICAL CARE;

2. ALLOWS AN INDIVIDUAL TO SPECIFY THE MEDICAL CARE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WILL RECEIVE AND CAN ALLEVIATE CONFLICT AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS;

3. CAN ENSURE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS ARE CONSIDERED WHEN DIRECTING MEDICAL CARE;

4. IS MOST EFFECTIVE IF COMPLETED IN CONSULTATION WITH FAMILY MEMBERS, OR LEGAL AND RELIGIOUS ADVISORS, IF AN INDIVIDUAL DESIRES;

5. CAN BE REVOKED OR CHANGED AT ANY TIME;