

DNRs can't be used by irresponsible third parties

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Do-not-resuscitate orders and living wills are two distinct legal documents, also referred to as "advance directives," and are not a license to kill.

A lazy or irresponsible family member can't just go out and get a DNR order to rid themselves of elderly or infirm relatives.

A patient who has a terminal illness or is in failing health makes an informed decision and decides, with his or her doctor, what he or she wants done in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Both the patient and doctor then sign a DNR order, which can be revoked by the patient at any time. A DNR bracelet or necklace must be worn, or the original DNR document prominently displayed.

The patient may also name a future decision-maker to make medical decisions for him or her should he or she be unable to do so.

A living will is used by the patient to give directions about end-of-life treatments in particular situations, such as permanent unconsciousness and fatal illnesses.

The patient may not want to be on life support, or have feeding tubes,

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etc., but may want to be pain-free and kept comfortable.

Most of us, as we get older, think about death and dying. I think most of us would want to die in peace. There is nothing dignified or peaceful about dying while CPR is being performed on you.

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