

**DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR)
POLICY**

I. POLICY

The Erie County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ECBMRDD) values the health and safety of all its consumers. The Board also recognizes the complexities in end-of-life decision making and believes that those decisions must be made with the individual's physician. While it is understood that there may be good and valid reasons for Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders, the Board is not a health care facility. Accordingly, the ECBMRDD and its employees shall take all reasonable steps necessary to preserve the life and safety of all persons enrolled in programs and services when confronted with an emergency situation.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Upon Receipt of a DNR Order

If an individual applies for enrollment or is already enrolled in a Board operated program and presents the Board with a fully executed advance directive or a DNR order, the Board shall do the following:

1. The individual or legal guardian shall receive a copy of this policy to notify them that the Board will take all steps necessary to preserve life until the individual is under the care of proper medical authorities. An acknowledgement of receipt of that policy will be requested;
2. All advance directives and DNR orders shall be kept in the individual's file, included in the individual plan, and reviewed annually at the individual's plan meeting;
3. Board service and support administration (SSA)/service coordination staff will be available to provide assistance to individuals in securing appropriate legal and medical consultation.

B. Procedures in an Emergency

1. If an individual enrolled in a ECBMRDD program has an emergency, the staff shall take all steps reasonably necessary to obtain emergency assistance and to preserve the individual's life until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel arrive to assume care.
2. Emergency care information, including any special orders such as a DNR order, will be provided to the EMS personnel upon arrival.
3. The MRDD Board staff shall immediately notify next of kin or other designated persons of the emergency.
4. Health care professionals will not be required to do any life saving measures which are inconsistent with their professional license.