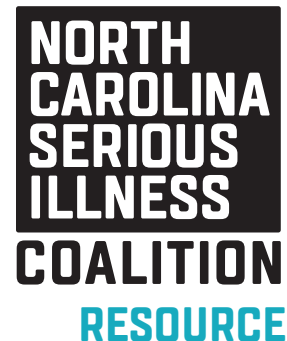


How to Complete a Health Care Power of Attorney (HCPOA) or Advance Health Care Directive (AD) in NC During the COVID-19 pandemic



The NC General Assembly unanimously passed legislation during the COVID-19 pandemic (NC Session Law 2020-3) that was signed into law by Gov. Cooper on May 4th. The law addresses many healthcare issues across the state, including changes to simplify the completion of a HCPOA and/or Advance Health Care Directive.

These changes currently extend by law until August 1, 2020 and allow individuals to complete these important documents with only a notary to validate completion—eliminating the need for two witnesses and a notary as previously required. The law also allows for the use of video notarization. Please note that documents completed during this period remain valid beyond August 1, 2020, however, even though the process may shift again.

We are providing these step-by-step instructions on how to complete the documents during this period so you can make your wishes known to your family, advocates, and healthcare providers in the event that you are not able to speak for yourself.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Go to www.sosnc.gov/divisions/advance_healthcare_directives and download either the HCPOA or Advance Directive form, as needed.
2. Read the form from beginning to end and then fill in the blanks. Most people want to discuss their preferences with family or other decision makers as they work to complete the document.
3. After you complete a document, you can make it legal by signing in the presence of a notary, either in person or through video notarization. You can find a notary through this site, www.sosnc.gov/divisions/notary, and ask them if they offer video notarization, if desired. Many do, but not all.
4. Once complete, share the document with your family, caregivers, decision makers, and health team. Put the notarized document in a safe, but accessible place, or upload it to an approved site.
5. You can use a free electronic tool such as www.mindmyhealth.org to learn more about advance care planning and then upload your document so it can be made available wherever and whenever needed.

The NC Serious Illness Coalition is working with legislators to extend these changes for a longer period of time in order to study the impact. Let your local representative know if you agree.

Contact the NC Serious Illness Coalition if you have a question by visiting our site at www.ncsicoalition.org or by email at info@ncsicoalition.org.