

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Policy Provision for Emergency Medical Services

Original Date: May 30, 1995

1995-2

Reaffirmed: May 11, 1998

Reaffirmed: July 23, 2001

In providing emergency medical care, Town employees shall be under no obligation to agree to a citizen's demand that he or she be provided with medical care only when certain individuals and/or employees of the Town of Wellfleet are on duty and able to provide same. No citizen shall have a right to choose which members of the Town's Fire Department or other Town emergency care providers he or she would like to provide services in connection with emergency situations.

POLICY PROVISION FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Whereas, it has been brought to the attention of the Board of Selectmen that certain citizens of the Town of Wellfleet, under certain circumstances do not choose to have medical care provided to them by the Town of Wellfleet Fire Department and/or other emergency personnel of the Town; and

Whereas, the Board has further been made aware that a Comfort Care/DNR (do not resuscitate) Order Verification Program has been developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health with the support of the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts College of Emergency Physicians to allow patients' treatment decisions and physicians' orders to be honored by EMS personnel (EMTs and First Responders). A properly executed, currently valid Comfort Care/DNR verification form or bracelet, which will only be available through the patient's primary care or attending physician, will alert EMS personnel that a DNR order is in place and must be recognized and honored.

Whereas, both the Fire Department and the Police Department utilize a protocol in dealing with situations in which a citizen has requested that they do not desire to receive medical care; and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen recognize the legal right of a citizen to refuse emergency medical treatment; and

Whereas, the Board of Selectmen is desirous of providing, through the Town's emergency medical personnel, the best medical care it can offer its citizens while at the same time honoring an individuals right to refuse such care;

Nowtherefore, the Board of Selectmen hereby adopt the following policy to be used as guidance by the Police Department and the Fire Department in dealing with requests of this nature from citizens:

In providing emergency medical care, Town employees shall be under no obligation to agree to a citizens demand that he or she be provided with medical care only when certain individuals and/or employees of the Town of Wellfleet are on duty and able to provide same. No citizen shall have a right to choose which members of the Town's Fire Department or other Town's Fire Department or other Town emergency care providers he or she would like to provide services in connection with emergency situations.