

DDS Life Sustaining Treatment (LST) Case Referral Protocol

A. Review of DNR/MOLST Forms

If a DDS employee receives a copy of end of life orders document for an individual receiving DDS services (currently known as a MOLST) a copy should be sent immediately to the DDS Area Office Nurse. The Area Office Nurse will review the form with the Regional Attorney. If there are questions about the validity or appropriateness of the orders, the order shall not be implemented – it shall be placed “on hold” until all questions or issues have been resolved.

B. Protocol for Individuals Who Are Seriously Ill Or Hospitalized

Individuals may become ill or injured and end up hospitalized. The medical treatments that an individual receives may include LST or the hospital may propose such treatment, or the hospital may propose withholding or withdrawing life sustaining treatments or procedures.

When an individual is seriously ill and has been brought to a hospital, DDS employees (service coordinators) shall:

- 1) Contact the individual’s family or guardian (if not already aware), and the DDS supervisor and/or the Area Director. The Area Director should notify the Regional Director.
- 2) Check the individual’s client file to determine his/her legal status with respect to ability to consent to medical decision-making. (Is the individual legally competent? Is there a guardian or a health care agent?)
- 3) If an individual has a current signed MOLST or Do Not Resuscitate or Do Not Resuscitate/Do not Intubate (DNR/DNI) Order in his/her DDS client file, be sure to let the Area Nurse and Regional Attorney involved with the case know this.)
- 4) Consult with the Regional Attorney to verify the legal status with respect to consent to medical decision-making.
- 5) Gather as much information as possible from the individual’s provider(s), family or guardian, area staff, and hospital staff on the history of the hospitalization and any recent health issues.
- 6) Obtain names, phone numbers, etc. of contacts at the hospital such as doctors, nurses, and social workers.
- 7) Share all information with the involved DDS staff including the Area Nurse and the Regional Attorney.
- 8) Regional Counsel will inform the General Counsel’s office of any proposed LST decisions. Approval from the General Counsel or designee is necessary on all decisions involving LST.