



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE ACT 1996

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Advance Medical Directive Act 1996

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An Act to provide for, and give legal effect to, advance directives to medical practitioners against artificial prolongation of the dying process and for matters connected therewith.

[1 July 1997]

Short title

- 1.—(1) This Act is the Advance Medical Directive Act 1996.
- (2) This Act does not apply to any act done or any directive or instrument made or executed before 1 July 1997.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“directive” means an advance medical directive made under section 3;

“Director” means the Director of Medical Services;

“extraordinary life-sustaining treatment” means any medical procedure or measure which, when administered to a terminally ill patient, will only prolong the process of dying when death is imminent, but excludes palliative care;

“medical practitioner” means a person who is registered, or deemed to be registered, as a medical practitioner under the Medical Registration Act 1997;

“palliative care” includes —

- (a) the provision of reasonable medical procedures for the relief of pain, suffering or discomfort; and
- (b) the reasonable provision of food and water;

“patient” means any person (whether or not he or she is undergoing any medical treatment, care or therapy) who is not mentally disordered, who has attained 21 years of age and who has made or desires to make a directive in accordance with this Act;

“recovery”, in relation to a terminal illness, includes a remission of symptoms or effects of the illness;

“register” means the register of advance medical directives established under section 6;

“Registrar” means the Registrar of Advance Medical Directives appointed under section 6 and includes a Deputy Registrar and an Assistant Registrar;

“specialist” means a medical practitioner who possesses such postgraduate medical qualifications as the Director may recognise for the purposes of this Act;

“terminal illness” means an incurable condition caused by injury or disease from which there is no reasonable prospect of a temporary or permanent recovery where —

(a) death would, within reasonable medical judgment, be imminent regardless of the application of extraordinary life-sustaining treatment; and

(b) the application of extraordinary life-sustaining treatment would only serve to postpone the moment of the patient’s death.

[21/2008]

Power to make advance medical directive

3.—(1) A person who is not mentally disordered, who has attained 21 years of age and who desires not to be subjected to extraordinary life-sustaining treatment in the event of his or her suffering from a terminal illness, may at any time make an advance medical directive in the prescribed form.

[21/2008]

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the directive must be witnessed by 2 witnesses present at the same time —

(a) one of whom must be the patient’s family medical practitioner or any other practitioner of the patient’s choice; and

(b) the other must be a person who has attained the age of 21 years.

(3) A witness must be a person who to the best of his or her knowledge —