

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1146

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES WHITE (Sponsor), MCCAHERTY,
ENGLISH AND DAVIS (Co-sponsors).

4239H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 191, RSMo, by adding thereto eight new sections relating to the adult health care consent act.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 191, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto eight new sections, to be
2 known as sections 191.1300, 191.1302, 191.1304, 191.1306, 191.1308, 191.1310, 191.1312, and
3 191.1314, to read as follows:

191.1300. 1. Sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Adult Health Care Consent Act".

3 2. As used in sections 191.1300 to 191.1314, the following terms shall mean:

4 (1) "Health care", a procedure to diagnose or treat a human disease, ailment,
5 defect, abnormality, or complaint, whether of physical or mental origin, and includes the
6 provision of:

7 (a) Intermediate or skilled nursing care provided in a facility licensed under
8 chapter 198;

9 (b) Services for the rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons; and

10 (c) The placement in or removal from a facility that provides such forms of care;

11 (2) "Health care provider" or "provider", a person, health care facility,
12 organization, or corporation licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by
13 the laws of this state to administer health care;

14 (3) "Health care professional", an individual who is licensed, certified, or otherwise
15 authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care to members of the public;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 (4) "Physician", an individual who is licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy
17 under chapter 334;

18 (5) "Unable to consent", unable to appreciate the nature and implications of the
19 patient's condition and proposed health care, to make a reasoned decision concerning the
20 proposed health care, or to communicate such decision in an unambiguous manner.
21 Unable to consent does not include minors, and sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 do not affect
22 the delivery of health care to minors unless they are married or have been determined
23 judicially to be emancipated. A patient's inability to consent shall be certified by two
24 licensed physicians, each of whom has examined the patient. However, in an emergency,
25 the patient's inability to consent may be certified by a health care professional responsible
26 for the care of the patient if the health care professional states in writing in the patient's
27 record that the delay occasioned by obtaining certification from two licensed physicians
28 would be detrimental to the patient's health. A certifying physician or other health care
29 professional shall give an opinion regarding the cause and nature of the inability to
30 consent, its extent, and its probable duration. If a patient unable to consent is being
31 admitted to hospice care pursuant to a physician certification of a terminal illness required
32 by Medicare, such certification meets the certification requirements of this subdivision.

 191.1302. 1. If a patient is unable to consent, decisions concerning the patient's
2 health care may be made by the following persons in the following order of priority:

3 (1) A guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction under chapter 475,
4 if the decision is within the scope of the guardianship;

5 (2) An attorney-in-fact appointed by the patient in a durable power of attorney for
6 health care executed under sections 404.800 to 404.872, if the decision is within the scope
7 of his or her authority;

8 (3) A person given priority to make health care decisions for the patient by another
9 statutory provision;

10 (4) A spouse of the patient, unless the spouse and the patient are separated under
11 one of the following:

12 (a) A current dissolution of marriage or separation action;

13 (b) A formal signing of a written property or marital settlement agreement;

14 (c) Entry of a permanent order of separate maintenance and support, or of a
15 permanent order approving a property or marital settlement agreement between the
16 parties;

17 (5) A parent or adult child of the patient;

18 (6) An adult sibling, grandparent, or adult grandchild of the patient;

19 (7) Any other relative by blood or marriage who reasonably is believed by the
20 health care professional to have a close personal relationship with the patient;

21 (8) Any nonrelative who reasonably is believed by the health care professional to
22 have a close personal relationship with the patient;

23 (9) A person given authority to make health care decisions for the patient by
24 another statutory provision.

25 2. Sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 shall not restrict any person interested in the
26 welfare of a patient from petitioning the probate court for an order determining the care
27 to be provided to the patient or for the appointment of a temporary or permanent guardian
28 for the patient.

29 3. If persons of equal priority disagree on whether certain health care should be
30 provided to a patient who is unable to consent, an authorized person, a health care
31 provider involved in the care of the patient, or any other person interested in the welfare
32 of the patient may petition the probate court for an order determining what care is to be
33 provided or for the appointment of a temporary or permanent guardian. If an attending
34 physician or other health care professional has reasonable cause to make a report of abuse
35 or neglect of the patient under section 198.070, 208.912, 210.115, 565.188, or 660.300, the
36 individual to be reported as the alleged perpetrator shall not be given priority or authority
37 under subdivisions (1) to (8) of subsection 1 of this section regardless of the purpose of
38 treatment.

39 4. Priority under this section shall not be given to a person if a health care provider
40 responsible for the care of a patient who is unable to consent determines that the person
41 is not reasonably available, is not willing to make health care decisions for the patient, or
42 is unable to consent as defined in section 191.1300.

43 5. An attending physician or other health care professional responsible for the care
44 of a patient who is unable to consent shall not give priority or authority under subdivisions
45 (5) to (8) of subsection 1 of this section to a person if the attending physician or health care
46 professional has actual knowledge that, before becoming unable to consent, the patient did
47 not want such person involved in decisions concerning the patient's care.

48 6. This section does not authorize a person to make health care decisions on behalf
49 of a patient who is unable to consent if, in the opinion of the certifying physicians, the
50 patient's inability to consent is temporary, and the attending physician or other health care
51 professional responsible for the care of the patient determines that the delay occasioned
52 by postponing treatment until the patient regains the ability to consent will not result in
53 a significant detriment to the patient's health.

54 7. A person authorized to make health care decisions under subsection 1 of this
55 section shall base such decisions on the patient's wishes to the extent that the patient's
56 wishes can be determined. If the patient's wishes cannot be determined, the person shall
57 base the decision on the patient's best interest.

58 8. A person authorized to make health care decisions under subsection 1 of this
59 section may either consent or withhold consent to health care on behalf of the patient.

 191.1304. 1. Health care may be provided without consent to a patient who is
2 unable to consent if no person authorized under section 191.1302 to make health care
3 decisions for the patient is available immediately and, in the reasonable medical judgment
4 of the attending physician or other health care professional responsible for the care of the
5 patient, the delay occasioned by attempting to locate an authorized person or by continuing
6 to attempt to locate an authorized person presents a substantial risk of death, serious
7 permanent disfigurement, loss or impairment of the functioning of a bodily member or
8 organ, or other serious threat to the health of the patient. Health care for the relief of
9 suffering may be provided without consent at any time if an authorized person is
10 unavailable.

11 2. Health care decisions on behalf of a patient who is unable to consent may be
12 made by a person named in section 191.1302 if no person having higher priority under that
13 section is available immediately and, in the reasonable medical judgment of the attending
14 physician or other health care professional responsible for the care of the patient, the delay
15 occasioned by attempting to locate a person having higher priority presents a substantial
16 risk of death, serious permanent disfigurement, loss or impairment of the functioning of
17 a bodily member or organ, or other serious threat to the health of the patient.

 191.1306. Health care may be provided without consent to a patient who is unable
2 to consent if no person authorized under section 191.1302 to make health care decisions for
3 the patient is reasonably available and willing to make the decision and, in the reasonable
4 medical judgment of the attending physician or other health care professional responsible
5 for the care of the patient, the health care is necessary for the relief of suffering, restoration
6 of bodily function, or to preserve the life, health, or bodily integrity of the patient.

 191.1308. 1. Unless the patient, while able to consent, has stated a contrary intent
2 to the attending physician or other health care professional responsible for the care of the
3 patient, sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 do not authorize the provision of health care to a
4 patient who is unable to consent if the attending physician or other health care professional
5 responsible for the care of the patient has actual knowledge that the health care is contrary
6 to the religious beliefs of the patient.

7 2. Sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 do not authorize the provision of health care to a
8 patient who is unable to consent if the attending physician or other health care professional
9 responsible for the care of the patient has actual knowledge that the health care is contrary
10 to the patient's unambiguous and uncontradicted instructions expressed at a time when the
11 patient was able to consent.

12 3. Sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 do not limit the evidence on which a court may
13 base a determination of a patient's intent in a judicial proceeding.

 191.1310. 1. A person who in good faith makes a health care decision as provided
2 in section 191.1302 shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability on account of the
3 substance of such decision.

4 2. A person who consents to health care as provided in section 191.1302 does not
5 by virtue of such consent become liable for the costs of care provided to the patient.

6 3. A health care provider who in good faith relies on a health care decision made
7 by a person authorized under section 191.1302 shall not be subject to civil or criminal
8 liability or disciplinary action on account of the provider's reliance on such decision.

9 4. A health care provider who in good faith relies on a health care decision under
10 section 191.1306 or 191.1308 shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability or disciplinary
11 action on account of the provision of care. However, this section does not affect a health
12 care provider's liability arising from the provision of care in a negligent manner.

 191.1312. No provision of sections 191.1300 to 191.1314 shall:

2 (1) Limit the ability of individuals to seek a guardianship under chapter 475;

3 (2) Affect the ability of a state agency or health care provider working in
4 conjunction with a state agency to conduct testing or provide treatment which is mandated
5 or allowed by other provisions of law; or

6 (3) Affect the ability of the department of mental health from executing its
7 authority as specified in chapters 552, 630, 631, 632, and 633.

 191.1314. Sections 191.1300 to 191.1312 do not authorize consent to be given for
2 any treatment, procedure, or other medical action for a pregnant patient that will put the
3 fetus at risk of death or serious physical injury, except to protect the life of the mother.

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