

SECTION - EMERGENCIES
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 354
(Replaces A.D. No. 354 dated 4/13/06)

Effective Date: February 14, 2007

SUBJECT: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

I. PURPOSE

To establish a process where Individuals may voluntarily donate organs and/or tissue.

II. AUTHORITY

This policy is established in accordance with Department of Mental Health standards and the Social Security Act Section 1137, Health and Safety Code 7184.

III. POLICY

Coalinga State Hospital (CSH) recognizes that some Individuals have determined, or will determine, to execute legal documents specifying organ or tissue donations in the event of death. Such documents must be recognized and appropriate notation made so that the wishes of the Individual will be followed in whatever way is consistent with the law, Department of Mental Health (DMH) policy, and the requirements of licensure and accreditation agencies.

IV. METHOD

A. Identification of Potential Organ or Tissue Donors:

1. As part of our admission process, each Individual will be asked if they have executed any documents, i.e., Advance Health Care Directives, driver's license or identification stating their desire to donate organ or tissue, and where the document can be obtained. Admission staff will flag the Individual's medical record if an organ or tissue donation document exists and document it in the transfer note. It shall be the responsibility of the Individual's treatment social worker to secure a copy of the document and file it in the Individual's medical record. The treatment unit social worker shall secure a release of information, signed by the Individual, before the social worker can discuss the issue with the family. The treatment unit social worker shall discuss potential donations with the Individual's family and document the family's desires.
2. If medically appropriate, terminally ill or dying Individuals, and their families, shall be sensitively approached for the purpose of ascertaining the Individual's desire and willingness to become an organ or tissue donor.

3. The Nursing Officer of the Day (NOD) will be notified when consent to donate organ(s) or tissue is established by an Individual. The NOD Office will maintain an ongoing active list of potential organ or tissue donors.

B. Consent:

1. Any witnessed document executed by the Individual establishes consent.
2. Any such document is to be reviewed by the responsible physician whenever an Individual is in danger of death.
3. Since the death of any DMH Individual is a Medical Examiner's case, any organ or tissue donation document is to be brought to the attention of the Medical Examiner at the time of notification of a death.
4. A legal guardian, or next of kin, may authorize donation of organ or tissue before the death of an Individual who is unable to give or to withhold consent.
5. The next of kin may authorize donation of organ or tissue after the death of an Individual.
6. Any authorization by a legal guardian or next of kin shall be properly legally executed and witnessed. It shall then be reviewed by the Medical Director and finally approved or disapproved by the Executive Director.

V. TRANSFER

At any time that an Individual is transferred to a hospital other than CSH, the policies and procedures of the treating hospital are to be followed, with appropriate consultation and documentation to be furnished to CSH including any organ and tissue donation desires of the Individual.



W. T. VOSS
Executive Director