

Idaho POST Patient FAQs

The following document is intended as a general guide to answer questions concerning the Idaho POST. This document should not be considered legal advice.

1. What is a "POST?"

A POST is a Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment. POST is a universal advanced directive. It replaces Idaho Comfort One and supersedes all other DNR orders. (Effective date 7/1/07). Although POST supersedes Comfort One, if you have a Comfort One, it is still valid.

2. Is there identification jewelry associated with POST like there was with Comfort One/DNR?

DNR is represented by Medical jewelry: bracelet, necklace or anklet. POST jewelry always indicates DNR and is only available to those who select DO NOT RESUSCITATE (DNR) on their POST form. The jewelry is not required but may help Emergency Medical Services personnel be aware of and honor your choice to not be resuscitated.

3. When is it appropriate to complete a POST?

POST is appropriate for anyone that:

- Has an incurable or irreversible injury
- Has a chronic, progressive, or end-stage disease, illness or condition
- Is in a terminal state
- Wishes to define their preferences for medical care

4. How can I get a POST form?

You obtain the form from your healthcare provider (physician, NP or PA).

5. I understand that I can register my advance directive with the Idaho Secretary of State; is registration mandatory?

The Idaho Health Care Directive Registry is a repository that provides secure access to registered advance directives (including completed POST forms). In addition to healthcare provider access, you may obtain a copy of your registered advanced directive in the event you have lost your original. Registration of your Living Will, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care or POST form with the Secretary of State is not mandatory. Registering your advance directive will provide an archive copy of the document, which will make the directive available for future download.

6. Is a copy of my POST form valid or must I have the original?

A copy is just as valid as the original.

7. Can the person that I designated as my Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC) override the choices that I chose on my POST form?

Your Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care cannot override your POST form unless they can provide evidence that your last known expressed wishes are different from those indicated on the POST.

8. Can my Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (DPAHC) be subject to criminal or civil liability for decisions that he/she makes while exercising their responsibilities in regards to the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care?

No, a DPAHC acting in good faith cannot be held criminally or civilly liable for their actions as a DPAHC.

9. Can I revoke a Living Will, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care or POST once I sign it?

(a) A POST form or any other directives may be revoked at any time by any of the following methods:

- By being intentionally cancelled, defaced, obliterated or burned, torn otherwise destroyed by you, or by some person in your presence and by your direction;
- By your written, signed revocation expressing your intent to revoke,
- Or by your oral expression of your intent to revoke.
- Your POST may also be suspended by your written, signed or oral expression expressing your intent to suspend your POST.

(b) Note that you are responsible for notifying your physician if you revoke or suspend your living will or durable power of attorney for health care.

10. Is compliance with the wishes that I stated on my POST form optional or must health care providers honor my wishes?

POST must be honored by all health care professionals except when:

- They believe in good faith the POST has been revoked or suspended as indicated above

OR

- To avoid an oral or physical confrontation
- If ordered to by the attending physician
- If neither a POST form or POST DNR jewelry are present

11. I have chosen to not be resuscitated (DNR) on my POST form. Is a new DNR order needed when I check in to a hospital or other health care facility?

POST provides a single uniform document that goes with you from one care setting to another. POST may travel with you. POST is honored in ALL health care facilities. No additional DNR order is needed.

12. Can I be required to execute an advance directive, such as a living will, durable power of attorney for health care or physician's orders for scope of treatment (POST) to receive health care?

No, you cannot be required to complete a living will, durable power of attorney for health care or POST form as a condition for being insured for, or receiving, health care services.

13. I have completed a POST form and informed all of my family members. What can I expect from health care providers and emergency medical services personnel if I should require emergency medical care?

If you require emergency medical care, you can expect the following:

- (a) Health care providers are required to make a reasonable effort to discover, by asking and looking for the POST form or POST jewelry.
- (b) Health care providers are not required to look for a POST form or jewelry if you are a victim of severe trauma, mass casualty, homicide or suicide.

14. If I elect for comfort measures only in the Medical Interventions section of the POST form (Section B), what sort of care can I expect?

"Comfort care" means treatment and care to provide comfort and cleanliness. You should expect oral and body hygiene; food and fluids offered orally; medication, positioning, warmth, appropriate lighting and other measures to relieve pain and suffering; and privacy and respect for your dignity and humanity.

15. On my POST form, I indicated that I desire aggressive interventions. Does this mean that my doctor is obligated to provide care that is considered futile or medically inappropriate?

No. Nothing in the Idaho POST law requires your health care provider to pursue treatment considered medically inappropriate or futile.

16. I just moved to Idaho and have an advance directive from another state; must I complete an Idaho POST?

No, provided the directive from the other state is materially similar to an Idaho directive, it is valid in Idaho.

17. Is my Idaho POST form valid in other states?

It depends on the laws of the other state. You should check the laws in the state(s) where you plan to visit.

18. I have been enrolled in the Idaho Comfort One/DNR program from prior to July 1, 2007, must I now complete an Idaho POST form also?

No, your Comfort One\DNR is still valid, provided it was signed prior to 1 July 2007. After 1 July 2007, the POST form replaces the Comfort One\DNR as the Idaho Do Not Resuscitate order. However, it is recommended that you discuss converting your Comfort One into a POST at your next routine appointment with your healthcare provider.

19. If I chose to make an advance directive, will it affect my ability to get or maintain my life insurance?

No, making a living will and/or durable power of attorney for health care or POST form will not affect your ability to get or maintain life insurance.