



Lifeline

Pikes Peak Citizens for Life works to protect the innocent, helpless, vulnerable members of our human family - young and old, infirm and healthy, born and preborn.

Pikes Peak Citizens For Life

January 2022

Can Patients be “Suicided” by Forms? Reject “Blank Check” Advanced Directive Forms that Undermine Treatment & Care

The December [Lifeline](#) highlighted insights Connie Pratt shared in her “*The Culture of Death at the End of Life*” presentation at our recent *Together for Life* event.

Connie described the increasing risks of broadly-worded advance directives like the ‘Living Will’ and “Do Not Resuscitate” and “Scope of Treatment” forms.

Beyond Living Wills and Advanced Directives, it is now routine for assisted living and medical institutions to present patients or their guardians with medical check-box forms. The idea is that *someone* associated with the facility will *eventually* use the form to determine what level of care the patient will –*or will not*– receive.

“Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment” (POLST) forms began as a pre-cursor to physician assisted suicide in Oregon in 1991. These forms now exist under a variety of names. The Colorado version is “Medical Orders on Scope of Treatment” (MOST).

The POLST or MOST is provided for the patient or his/her “Agent, Guardian, or Proxy” – to give the medical institution “guidance” on whether the patient will receive

“no” treatment, “full” treatment, or something in between in the areas of CPR, medical interventions, antibiotics, and nutrition and hydration.

Patient advocates liken this to ‘writing a blank check’ to a stranger. They point out that “advanced directives” are usually written to be deliberately-broad, with easily-misinterpreted wording.

For example, on Colorado’s MOST form, the use of antibiotics and fluids – commonly needed for patients to survive *recoverable* illnesses such as pneumonia or urinary tract infections – are grouped in “Selective Treatment” with fear-inducing bold underline statements of “Do not intubate” and “Avoid intensive care.”

[HALO](#) – the Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization points out on their website, that, “***It is impossible to make morally sound, sensible, informed health care decisions based on guesswork about some future illness or injury and possible treatment options. Health care decisions must be based on current information.***”

Bottom line: these simplistic check-the-box forms give unknown future strangers authority to determine when or how you (or a loved one) *will live or die*.

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MEDICAL ADVANCED DIRECTIVES COMPARISON

Type	Decisions Are Made	The Terminology Is	Required	Recommended Directives of this Type
POLST – Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (Called MOST in Colorado)	Days, weeks, or even years in advance. <u>POLST orders can be followed even when a patient is fully capable of making medical decisions or could recover if treated.</u>	Slanted toward death. “Facilitators” fill out POLST forms with patients. Questions often manipulate patients’ responses so that they unwittingly refuse life- saving or life-sustaining treatment by opting for “comfort care” (a euphemism for giving pain meds to cover up thirst and hunger, etc.)	1 - patient or the patient’s healthcare proxy 1 - designated healthcare professional <i>Most require NO witnesses.</i>	None. Not recommended An emergency alternative is HALO’s LAMP (Life-Affirming Medical Proxy)
Living Will	Days, weeks, or even years in advance of need.	Deceptive. Terms used often have legal / medical meanings that are quite different from what a person <i>thinks</i> they mean.	1 principal (person filling out) 2 witnesses (or a notary)	Not recommended.
Medical Power of Attorney (Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care)	In the moment by the patient’s appointed decision-maker and tailored to the patient’s current medical needs.	Can be either life-affirming or deceptive and dangerous, depending on who interprets the terms.	1 principle 2 witnesses (or a notary)	<i>Patients’ Rights Council’s PMDD</i> (Protective Medical Decisions Document).

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To schedule a PPCFL Presentation

Julie Bailey (719) 630-1999

Join us as a volunteer!!

Staff our office; assist with computer work; become a PPCFL church or group contact; assist with educational programs; staff an educational booth; or assist in fundraising. Feel free to bring fresh ideas or "Chair" a project... the opportunities are endless.

FREE Subscription: LifeLine Newsletter

To receive our electronic LifeLine subscribe [online](#). For a paper subscription, call or email:

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All-Volunteer / Tax Exempt Organization

PPCFL is an approved tax-exempt Public Charity under the IRS Code section 501(c)(3).

Donations are tax deductible.

Our EIN is 26-0770794.

Donate Online, or Send Your Gift to:

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Is this a memorial? If so, for whom?

PPCFL does NOT sell or release any reader or donor information.



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The President's Corner

The new year we have just entered promises to be anything but boring for those who defend life!

On the national level, we await a Supreme Court ruling on the *Dobbs* case which might just overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Simultaneously, and in response, the Democrat controlled legislature in Colorado will be working to enshrine abortion in Colorado law.

Our efforts to build a culture of life in Colorado are more critical than ever. We encourage you to get involved in any way you can, whether it be in witnessing to life in front of the local Planned Parenthood, building a pro-life group at your church, staffing a booth to inform people about the wonder of the development of the human body, writing pro-life articles, educating people on advanced directives, or financing advertising campaigns, just to name a few.

In the past we have also engaged our elected representatives. We encourage you to continue to engage them, and **we would like to add new ways in which to accomplish this engagement: prayer and encouragement.**

For those of you who feel called to pray, select the name of one (or more) elected officials, either in a district you belong to or some other Colorado district, and then **pray for these elected officials each and every day of the Colorado legislative session** (starting January 12th). Examples of prayers include asking for blessings for the officials and their families, for wisdom and discernment in their roles as representatives of the people, and for courage and fortitude in defending the common good, including life.

Alternatively, you can **send messages of encouragement to your selected officials.** These messages could be by phone, email, or letter. Touch on how the representative has said or done something praiseworthy or in some way positive for the common good. Consider visiting them at a town hall or even at the capitol.

Of course, if you feel ready, try doing both of them! Challenging times call for new and increased efforts on engagement. **Let's step up our communication with our elected representatives and help foster a culture of life in the public arena in 2022.** Thank you for supporting Life!

Matt

"Suicided" by Forms? (continued)

How can we protect ourselves and loved ones from having unknown strangers make life and death healthcare decisions?

Only give your medical durable-power-of-attorney to someone who loves you, shares your pro-life values, and will fight for you!

Prolife patient advocates recommend revoking any existing advanced directives that you may have established through wills or care facilities.

The [Patients' Rights Council](#) Protective Medical Decisions Document, PMDD can be ordered by calling the PRC at (800) 958-5678. These documents have been written to correspond to each state's laws and the multi-state version complies with Colorado Law.

HALO's emergency alternative to POLST/ MOST called [LAMP](#) (Life-Affirming Principles for Medical Decision-Making) is available online. This is a temporary document. PMDD is a better a long-term solution.

Ref: halovoice.org "[Medical Advance Directives: A Comparison](#)"

Ref: Patients' Rights Council [Advanced Directive: Protective Medical Decisions Document](#)

Questions to Ask a Hospice BEFORE Admission

One of many resources Connie Pratt shared with our *Together for Life* gathering was a guidance document from Healthcare Advocacy and Leadership Organization (HALO) regarding choosing Hospice agencies.

HALO advises that hospices can vary dramatically in their philosophies which impacts the level of care to patient and family:

“A hospice that respects the sanctity of life, that truly abides by the founding principles of hospice—to maintain dignity, to increase quality of life, and to provide comfort and pain control—is a safe haven for patients in need of expert end-of-life care. Unfortunately, the aim of many hospices has shifted from helping patients who are dying to helping patients die more quickly.”

HALO’s [“Questions to Ask a Hospice BEFORE Admission”](#) is a multi-page document with important notes and additional guidance for knowing your rights in hospice care. The questions include:

1. Is the hospice life-affirming?
2. Is the hospice non-profit or for profit?
3. Is the hospice licensed by the state?
4. Is the hospice Medicare certified?
5. Has the hospice ever committed insurance fraud?
6. How many counties does the hospice serve?
7. How are services provided after hours? How long may it take for an on-call nurse to respond to my call?
8. Can I meet with the hospice administrator and the staff members prior to hospice admission?
9. In detail, what types of services are provided? How often will each of these services be provided?
10. Will services be provided by the same individuals throughout the course of my care?
11. What kinds of support are available to my family/ caregivers?
12. What do hospice volunteers do? Am I eligible for volunteer services?
13. Can the hospice provide care in a nursing home or personal care home/assisted living?
14. Must someone (a family member, friend, or caregiver) be with me at all times?
15. Must I commit to a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) status?
16. Does the hospice require that every patient sign a POLST-type form?
17. Can I receive intravenous fluids and tube feedings?
18. Will my usual medications (e.g., blood pressure medication, insulin, etc.) be continued?
19. Does the hospice administer medications to relieve pain and anxiety only on an as-needed basis, or are patients routinely started on these types of medications on admission?
20. What is the hospice’s position regarding Terminal Sedation (also called Palliative Sedation)?
21. Will I receive a bill for expenses not covered by insurance?
22. What should I do first if I am having a problem with the care my hospice is providing?
23. What should I do if I feel the hospice hasn’t addressed my concerns adequately?

HALO’s website halovoice.org has a wealth of resources for life-affirming healthcare, patient advocacy and navigating healthcare issues.

Reference: https://halovoice.org/wp-content/uploads/HALO_Questions-to-ask-a-Hospice.pdf

☞ Memorial Gift ☞

Received from
Daniel Schmelzer
in memory of his mother



Viola Schmelzer
Nov 24, 1927 - Aug 25, 2021
~~~~~  
Our thanks & blessings

### ☞ Gift ☞

Received from  
*Ann Marie Wick*  
in Honor of



*Mary & James  
Simmons  
Michael, Madeline,  
& David*  
~~~~~  
Our thanks & blessings

☞ Gift ☞

Received from
Nick & Debra Jasper
in honor of



Cleta Jasper
~~~~~  
Our thanks & blessings

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Tax Donation Letters** are mailed in January.

If you made a donation to PPCFL  
of more than \$250 in 2021,  
you will automatically receive a letter.

To receive an official letter for smaller  
amounts, please contact John at  
jmrcombs@centurylink.net.



**Saturday, January 15, 2022**  
**Celebrate Life Rally & March**

Colorado State Capitol, Denver  
Rally @ 1:00 PM / Pro-Life March @ 2:00 PM

Respect Life of Denver hosts this Celebrate Life Rally and March.  
More details are available [at their website](#).

For those in the Pikes Peak region who might be interested, two buses are going to the event. You can [sign up here](#) to reserve your bus seat. Bus pickup in Security (at St. Dominic's) or in Monument (at the park-n-ride). Note that the trip to the rally will include a Mass at St. Mark's in Highlands Ranch on the way with time for lunch. (If you don't have online access, call/text Julie at 401-578-4471).



**Sunday, January 16, 2022**  
**Together for Life**

Commemorate *Sanctity of Human Life Sunday* 1:00–2:30 PM  
at Holy Apostles Catholic Church. (See details in box at right.)



**Monday, January 17, 2022**  
**Rocky Mountain March for Life - CSPGS**

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Martin Luther King Day, join local pro-life witnesses in the annual *Rocky Mountain March for Life* from the local Planned Parenthood at the 3400 block of Centennial Blvd. to Corpus Christi Church 2318 N Cascade Ave. Shuttles will be available for those unable to walk the distance. See event [flyer](#) linked on our website for additional details.



***Sanctity  
of Human Life  
Sunday***

*Michelle Lyman's story of miraculous survival  
is one you'll want to hear!*

Michelle delivers the love of Christ in a message of forgiveness and redemption, which has blessed her entire family for multiple generations.

She discovered Abortion Survivors Network at an Oregon Right to Life conference where she met Claire Culwell who was a guest speaker at the event.

Michelle is an entrepreneur with several businesses.

All are invited for this *Together for Life* gathering as we commemorate the tragic 49<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision.

**January 16, 2022; 1:00 to 2:30 PM**  
**Holy Apostles Catholic Church – Parish Hall**