

## Standard of Care

The current standard of care during an emergency is to do everything possible in an attempt to save someone's life, unless there is a medical order to the contrary.

### Advance Care Plan Documents

ACP documents allow individuals to share their treatment preferences in the event they can no longer speak for themselves. There are two kinds.

	Legal Documents	Medical Orders
<b>Includes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advance directives</li><li>• Living Wills</li><li>• Health Care Power of Attorney</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders</li><li>• Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms – name varies by state- see <a href="http://www.polst.org">www.polst.org</a></li></ul>
<b>Purpose</b>	Identify a surrogate decision maker. Provide general wishes about treatments individual wants.	Orders emergency personnel to provide specific treatments during a medical emergency.
<b>Who Needs</b>	All competent adults	Seriously ill individuals. POLST Forms are only those individuals for whom health care professionals wouldn't be surprised if they died within a year.
<b>Can be used during an emergency</b>	No. These are used to develop care plans, but are not orders EMS can follow.	Yes. These are medical orders signed by health care professionals.