

Guide for Physicians in Providing Medical Documentation for End-of-Life Decision-Making to the Office of Public Guardian

VT law requires a review by the Developmental Disabilities Services Division Ethics Committee to safeguard against **discriminatory medical decisions based solely on level of developmental disability** when considering advance care planning and end-of-life decision-making on behalf of persons under State guardianship.

This procedure requires a **Statement from the patient's physician(s)**, including the:

- **Nature of person's medical conditions** and determination of whether the person has an **irreversible and/or terminal condition**;
- **Physician's recommendation re: code status** (meaning, the use of, or foregoing of, CPR upon cessation of heart beat and respiratory function) and the **reasons for this recommendation**, including a description of what the effects of a **particular intervention** may be on this **specific person** and **why the intervention would be appropriate or inappropriate**;
- **Physician's recommendation re: the use of other life-sustaining treatments** that might reasonably be considered for a person with this condition, which might include the use of mechanical ventilatory support (ventilator, BiPap), hospitalization, use of a feeding tube, dialysis, and others; description of what the **effects of a particular intervention** may be on this specific person and why intervention would be appropriate or inappropriate.

Please note that the Physician's Statement **need not** include an extensive detailing of the patient's medical history, as the Physician's Statement will be presented to the OPG Ethics Committee along with additional information compiled by the patient's guardian. This will include a description of the person and brief personal history, the general medical issues and list of medications, the chronology of medical events leading up to the present situation, the diagnosis and prognosis, and the treatment options and recommendations.

Patient's name: _____

The patient's guardian, _____

Guardian's phone numbers: _____

24 hour OPG Answering Service: 800-642-3100