



Health & Social Services Department

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Adult and Child Services - Eligibility & Employment Services
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICY MEMORANDUM #6165

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/93

APPROVED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

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SUBJECT: DONOR CARD SEARCH BY EMS PERSONNEL

AUTHORITY: CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE, 7152.5(b)

PURPOSE/POLICY:

Section 7152.5 of the CA Health & Safety Code requires EMS personnel to make a "reasonable search" for a document, or other information, identifying the bearer as a donor or as an individual who has declined to make an anatomical gift under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (Section 7150, CA H&S Code).

PROCEDURE

In general, EMS personnel should not search a patient's personal belongings to locate a donor card. When it appears that an individual may be a donor, a "reasonable search" consists of asking a family member (if present) about the possibility of a donor card and notifying of the results of the search:

- The receiving hospital, if transported, **or**
- A law enforcement office, if not transported.

DOCUMENTATION

If personal belongings are searched, the search **must** be done in the presence of a witness, and the name of the witness, details regarding the search, what was found and who was notified shall be documented on the PCR. EMS will leave the "patient medical record copy" with the body for proper notification of the Coroner.

Documentation that the **search was conducted** shall be entered onto the PCR in the special scene conditions section utilizing the number code 31 (see example below). Documentation that the **search was conducted and a donor card was found** (regardless of the information included therein) shall be entered onto the PCR in the special scene conditions section utilizing the number code 32 (see example below).

| SPECIAL SCENE CONDITIONS | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ALS W/O BHC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HAZ-MAT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EMS Aircraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Major Trauma Patient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transfer Patient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OTHER <u>31</u> or |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OTHER <u>32</u> |

If a document of gift or evidence that the patient declined to assign an anatomical gift is located by search **and** the patient is transported to a hospital, the receiving hospital shall be notified of the contents of the document.

If the individual is determined to be dead by the **Criteria for Non-Resuscitation Policy or Discontinuation of CPR Policy**, EMS personnel shall notify a law enforcement officer to perform the search.