

Virginia Offers Advance Health Care Directive Registry

The Commonwealth of Virginia is offering a statewide Advance Health Care Directive Registry. The registry, available to all legal Virginia residents, stores documents that detail and protect health care wishes in the event people are unable to speak for themselves. These documents include medical power of attorney, do-not-resuscitate orders, and other health care wishes.

“This public-private partnership between the Virginia Department of Health, UNIVAL Inc., and Microsoft Corporation provides an important service to all Virginians,” said William Hazel Jr., secretary of Health and Human Resources. The registry is free for users.

Without advanced planning, health care decisions are often left to

family members when loved ones become incapacitated and unable to speak for themselves. The registry relieves loved ones of that burden and ensures that those loved ones, as well as health care providers, know a person’s wishes and who they want making medical decisions for them. Through the registry, residents can also make known their wishes regarding organ donation.

Using the registry is easy. Users enter basic information, create an account and select a personal identification number (PIN) and password. Each Virginian who signs up for the registry receives an identification card containing their personal registry information so health care providers can access their information if necessary. They may also share their PIN

with friends, family, and health care providers, allowing them access to their information.

The registry will be interoperable with the statewide Health Information Exchange. The exchange is a secure, confidential, electronic system where a patient’s records will be accessible to other health care providers throughout the nation if a patient chooses to participate. As the statewide exchange becomes operational, the registry will be a value-added service.

To sign up for the health care registry, visit <https://www.virginiaregistry.org>. People without access to a computer can still be part of the registry by calling **800-224-0791**.