

Search For Donor Card

I. PURPOSE

- A. Section 7150.55 of the Health and Safety Code requires emergency medical personnel to make a reasonable search for a document of anatomical gift, other information identifying the patient as a donor, or an individual who has declined to make an anatomical gift, “upon providing emergency medical services to an individual, when it appears that the death of that individual may be imminent. This requirement shall be secondary to the requirement that ambulance or emergency medical personnel provide emergency medical services to the patient.”
- B. No search is to be made by emergency medical personnel after the patient has expired.

II. PROCEDURE

Emergency medical treatment and transport of the patient remains the highest priority for field personnel. This search shall not interfere with patient care or transport.

- A. If a document of anatomical gift or evidence of declination to make an anatomical gift is located by emergency medical personnel, and that individual is taken to a hospital, the hospital shall be provided with the documentation. In situations where the investigating law enforcement officer has requested the card, hospital notification of documentation found will meet this requirement. Verification of documentation can be made through the “Donate Life California” registry.
- B. If emergency medical personnel are unable to perform a search due to overriding medical care priorities or sensitivity concerns at the scene or during transport, the hospital shall be notified that the search has not been performed along with surrounding circumstances.
- C. Details of any search including witnesses, what was found and who was notified shall be documented in the Electronic Health Record (EHR) completed for the patient.
- D. Most importantly, a completed EHR that describes the circumstances and timing of events leading to the patient’s condition as well as prehospital patient care delivered are critical to hospital personnel responsible for anatomical gift decisions.

