

## CHAPTER 233

(House Bill 1140)

AN ACT concerning

### Nurse Practitioners – Authority to Certify

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing certain nurse practitioners to make a certain determination of incapacity or debilitation under certain circumstances; requiring a certain nurse practitioner to provide a copy of a certain determination to a certain standby guardian;~~ authorizing certain nurse practitioners to certify that a certain minor is pregnant or has given birth under certain circumstances; authorizing certain nurse practitioners or certain nurse midwives to provide certain information about the birth of a child for purposes of filing a birth certificate; authorizing certain nurse practitioners to complete and sign a certain death certificate under certain circumstances; requiring certain nurse practitioners who complete a certain death certificate to give or transmit the certificate to a certain mortician within a certain period of time; authorizing certain nurse practitioners to serve as a witness to a certain advance directive under certain circumstances; authorizing certain nurse practitioners to issue a certain oral emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” under certain circumstances; ~~authorizing certain nurse practitioners to conduct a certain examination for purposes of a certain involuntary admission;~~ requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to pay for a certain examination conducted by a certain nurse practitioner; authorizing certain nurse practitioners to conduct certain educational training programs for applicants for certification for the Insect Sting Emergency Treatment Program; authorizing certain nurse practitioners to certify that certain applicants for assignment of a certain special disability registration number or plates to a certain vehicle have certain conditions; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the certifying authority of nurse practitioners.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Estates and Trusts  
Section 13-906  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2001 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Family Law  
Section 2-301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 4–208(a), 4–212, 5–601(h) and (o) through (q), 5–602(c) ~~through (e)~~ and (d), 5–608(c), ~~10–616(a)~~, 10–628, and 13–704

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 5–601(a), 5–602(a) and (e), and 13–701

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Health – General

Section 5–601(o)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–616(a) and (b)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article – Estates and Trusts~~

~~13–906.~~

(a) (1) ~~A determination of incapacity or debilitation under this subtitle shall:~~

(i) ~~Be made by the attending physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER to a reasonable degree of medical certainty;~~

(ii) ~~Be in writing; and~~

(iii) ~~Contain the attending physician's OR NURSE PRACTITIONER'S opinion regarding the cause and nature of the parent's incapacity or debilitation, and the extent and probable duration of the incapacity or debilitation.~~

~~(2) If a standby guardian's identity is known to an attending physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER, the attending physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall provide a copy of a determination of incapacity or debilitation to the standby guardian.~~

~~(b) If requested by a standby guardian, an attending physician OR NURSE PRACTITIONER shall make a determination regarding the parent's incapacity or debilitation for purposes of this subtitle.~~

~~(c) If the parent is able to comprehend the information, a standby guardian shall inform the parent of:~~

~~(1) The beginning of the standby guardian's authority as a result of a determination of incapacity; and~~

~~(2) The parent's right to revoke the authority promptly after receipt of the determination of incapacity.~~

## Article – Family Law

2-301.

(a) An individual 16 or 17 years old may not marry unless:

(1) the individual has the consent of a parent or guardian and the parent or guardian swears that the individual is at least 16 years old; or

(2) if the individual does not have the consent of a parent or guardian, either party to be married gives the clerk a certificate from a licensed physician **OR CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER** stating that the physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER** has examined the woman to be married and has found that she is pregnant or has given birth to a child.

(b) An individual 15 years old may not marry unless:

(1) the individual has the consent of a parent or guardian; and

(2) either party to be married gives the clerk a certificate from a licensed physician **OR CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER** stating that the physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER** has examined the woman to be married and has found that she is pregnant or has given birth to a child.

(c) An individual under the age of 15 may not marry.

## Article – Health – General

4-208.

(a) (1) Within 72 hours after a birth occurs in an institution, or en route to the institution, the administrative head of the institution or a designee of the administrative head shall:

- (i) Prepare, on the form that the Secretary provides, a certificate of birth;
- (ii) Secure each signature that is required on the certificate; and
- (iii) File the certificate.

(2) The attending physician, **NURSE PRACTITIONER, OR NURSE MIDWIFE** shall provide the date of birth and medical information that are required on the certificate within 72 hours after the birth.

4-212.

(a) This section does not apply to a fetal death.

(b) (1) A certificate of death regardless of age of decedent shall be filled out and signed by:

- (i) The medical examiner, if the medical examiner takes charge of the body; or
- (ii) If the medical examiner does not take charge of the body, the physician **OR PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER** who last attended the deceased.

(2) The medical examiner [or], physician, **OR PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER** shall fill in only the following information on the certificate of death:

- (i) The name of the deceased.
- (ii) The cause of death and medical certification.
- (iii) The date and hour of death.
- (iv) The place where death occurred.

(3) Any other information that is required on the certificate of death regardless of age of decedent shall be filled in:

(i) By the person who has charge of the body; or

(ii) If the State Anatomy Board has charge of the body, by the person who last had charge of the body before it was sent to the State Anatomy Board.

(4) The medical certification shall be completed within 24 hours after receipt of the death certificate by the physician **OR PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER** in charge of the patient's care for the illness or condition which resulted in death, except when inquiry is required by the medical examiner.

(5) In the absence or inability of the attending physician **OR PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER** or with the attending physician's **OR PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER'S** approval, the certificate may be completed by:

(i) The attending physician's ~~OR NURSE PRACTITIONER'S~~ associate;

(ii) The chief medical officer or designee of the institution in which death occurred; or

(iii) The physician who performed an autopsy upon the decedent, provided the individual has access to the medical history of the case and death is due to natural causes.

(6) The person completing the cause of death and medical certification shall attest to the accuracy by signature or by an approved electronic process.

(7) The funeral director or person acting as the funeral director shall in all cases obtain the medical certification from the person responsible for its completion or obtain assurance that the medical certification has been provided to the Secretary by an approved electronic process.

(c) Each individual concerned with carrying out this subtitle promptly shall notify the medical examiner if:

(1) The deceased was not under treatment by a physician during the terminal illness;

(2) The cause of death is unknown; or

(3) The individual considers any of the following conditions to be the cause of death or to have contributed to the death:

(i) An accident, including a fall with a fracture or other injury.

- (ii) Homicide.
- (iii) Suicide.
- (iv) Other external manner of death.
- (v) Alcoholism.
- (vi) Criminal or suspected criminal abortion.

(d) (1) If, within 24 hours after taking charge of a body, the medical examiner has not determined the cause of death, the medical examiner shall enter "investigation pending" in the cause of death section of the death certificate.

(2) As soon as the medical examiner determines the cause of death, the medical examiner shall send to the Secretary a report of the cause of death, for entry on the certificate.

(e) (1) A physician **OR A PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER** who fills out a certificate of death shall give it or transmit it by approved electronic media, including facsimile, to the mortician within 24 hours after the death occurred.

(2) A medical examiner who fills out a certificate of death shall give it or transmit it by approved electronic media, including facsimile, to the mortician within 24 hours after the medical examiner took charge of the body.

(f) (1) If a death occurs on a common carrier in the United States and the body is removed from the carrier in this State, the death shall be registered in this State, and the place where it is first removed shall be considered the place of death. When a death occurs on a common carrier while in international waters or air space or in a foreign country or its air space and the body is first removed from the carrier in this State, the death shall be registered in this State, but the certificate shall show the actual place of death insofar as can be determined.

(2) The individual in charge or the owner of the common carrier or a designee shall file a certificate of death within 24 hours after the body is removed from the carrier.

(3) If the death occurred under any of the conditions or circumstances set forth in subsection (c) of this section, the medical examiner shall be notified.

(g) A mortician who obtains a certificate of death under this section shall file the certificate within 72 hours after the death.

(h) (1) Except as authorized under this subtitle, an individual who has a duty to fill out and sign a certificate of death may not execute more than one certificate for a death.

(2) The attending physician, **THE PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER**, or a medical examiner who takes charge of a body may file a replacement death certificate if a correction that the physician, **THE PHYSICIAN'S COLLABORATING NURSE PRACTITIONER**, or medical examiner authorizes cannot be entered legibly on the original certificate.

5-601.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(h) "Emergency medical services 'do not resuscitate order'" means a physician's **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER'S** written order in a form established by protocol issued by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services in conjunction with the State Board of Physicians which, in the event of a cardiac or respiratory arrest of a particular patient, authorizes certified or licensed emergency medical services personnel to withhold or withdraw cardiopulmonary resuscitation including cardiac compression, endotracheal intubation, other advanced airway management techniques, artificial ventilation, defibrillation, and other related life-sustaining procedures.

(o) **"NURSE PRACTITIONER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL LICENSED TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING IN THE STATE AND WHO IS CERTIFIED AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER ~~JOINTLY BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING AND THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS UNDER TITLE 8 AND TITLE 14 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.~~**

[(o)] **(P)** "Persistent vegetative state" means a condition caused by injury, disease, or illness:

(1) In which a patient has suffered a loss of consciousness, exhibiting no behavioral evidence of self-awareness or awareness of surroundings in a learned manner other than reflex activity of muscles and nerves for low level conditioned response; and

(2) From which, after the passage of a medically appropriate period of time, it can be determined, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, that there can be no recovery.

[(p)] **(Q)** "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in the State or in the jurisdiction where the treatment is to be rendered or withheld.

[(q)] (R) "Terminal condition" means an incurable condition caused by injury, disease, or illness which, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, makes death imminent and from which, despite the application of life-sustaining procedures, there can be no recovery.

5-602.

(a) Any competent individual may, at any time, make a written advance directive regarding the provision of health care to that individual, or the withholding or withdrawal of health care from that individual.

(c) (1) A written advance directive shall be dated, signed by or at the express direction of the declarant, and subscribed by two witnesses.

(2) (i) Except as provided in items (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph, any competent individual may serve as a witness to an advance directive, including an employee of a health care facility, **NURSE PRACTITIONER**, or physician caring for the declarant if acting in good faith.

(ii) The health care agent of the declarant may not serve as a witness.

(iii) At least one of the witnesses must be an individual who is not knowingly entitled to any portion of the estate of the declarant or knowingly entitled to any financial benefit by reason of the death of the declarant.

(d) (1) Any competent individual may make an oral advance directive to authorize the providing, withholding, or withdrawing of any life-sustaining procedure or to appoint an agent to make health care decisions for the individual.

(2) An oral advance directive shall have the same effect as a written advance directive if made in the presence of the attending physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER** and one witness and if the substance of the oral advance directive is documented as part of the individual's medical record. The documentation shall be dated and signed by the attending physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER** and the witness.

(e) (1) Unless otherwise provided in the document, an advance directive shall become effective when the declarant's attending physician ~~**OR NURSE PRACTITIONER**~~ and a second physician ~~**OR NURSE PRACTITIONER**~~ certify in writing that the patient is incapable of making an informed decision.

(2) If a patient is unconscious, or unable to communicate by any means, the certification of a second physician ~~**OR NURSE PRACTITIONER**~~ is not required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

5-608.

(c) This section does not authorize emergency medical services personnel in the outpatient setting to follow an emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” that is in any form other than:

(1) An emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” described in subsection (a) of this section;

(2) An oral emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” provided by an on-line, emergency medical services medical command and control physician; or

(3) An oral emergency medical services “do not resuscitate order” provided by a physician, as defined in § 5-601 of this subtitle, **OR A NURSE PRACTITIONER, AS DEFINED IN § 5-601 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, who is physically present on the scene with the patient and the emergency medical services personnel in the outpatient setting.

~~10-616.~~

~~(a) (1) A certificate for involuntary admission of an individual under Part III of this subtitle shall:~~

~~(i) Be based on the personal examination of the physician [or] psychologist, **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER** who signs the certificate; and~~

~~(ii) Be in the form that the Secretary adopts, by rule or regulation.~~

~~(2) The rules and regulations shall require the form to include:~~

~~(i) A diagnosis of a mental disorder of the individual;~~

~~(ii) An opinion that the individual needs inpatient care or treatment; and~~

~~(iii) An opinion that admission to a facility or Veterans' Administration hospital is needed for the protection of the individual or another.~~

10-628.

(a) (1) If an emergency evaluatee cannot pay or does not have insurance that covers the charges for emergency services, an initial consultant examination by a physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER**, and transportation to an emergency facility

and, for an involuntary admission of the emergency evaluatee, to the admitting facility, the Department shall pay the appropriate party the actual cost or a reasonable rate for this service, whichever is lower, except that hospitals shall be paid at rates approved by the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

(2) The reasonable rate for the services provided under an emergency petition shall be calculated by using a methodology established by regulation and reasonably related to the actual cost.

(b) With respect to emergency admissions, the Department shall be subrogated against any insurance coverage available to the patient for charges relating to emergency service, initial consultant examination by a physician **OR NURSE PRACTITIONER**, and transportation to an emergency facility under Part IV of this subtitle.

13-701.

The Insect Sting Emergency Treatment Program is a program in the Department for the purpose of providing a means of authorizing certain individuals to administer life-saving treatment to persons who have severe adverse reactions to insect stings when physician services or emergency medical services are not immediately available.

13-704.

(a) To qualify for a certificate, an individual shall meet the requirements of this section.

(b) The applicant shall be of good moral character.

(c) The applicant shall be at least 18 years old.

(d) The applicant shall have, or reasonably expect to have, responsibility for at least one other person as a result of the individual's occupation or volunteer status.

(e) (1) The applicant shall successfully complete an educational training program approved by the Department.

(2) Educational training programs required under this subsection shall:

(i) **1.** Be conducted by a physician licensed to practice medicine in this State under Title 14 of the Health Occupations Article; [and] **OR**

**2. BE CONDUCTED BY A NURSE PRACTITIONER LICENSED TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING IN THIS STATE UNDER TITLE 8**

**OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE AND WHO IS CERTIFIED AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER ~~JOINTLY BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING AND THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS~~; AND**

- (ii) Include training in:
  - 1. The recognition of the symptoms of systemic reactions to insect stings; and
  - 2. The proper administration of a subcutaneous injection of epinephrine.

**Article - Transportation**

13-616.

- (a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

**(2) “CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING TO PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSING AS DESCRIBED IN § 8-101 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE AND WHO IS CERTIFIED AS A NURSE PRACTITIONER ~~JOINTLY BY THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING AND THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICIANS~~.**

**[(2)] (3)** “Licensed chiropractor” means a chiropractor who is licensed by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners to practice chiropractic or chiropractic with the right to practice physical therapy as described in § 3-301 of the Health Occupations Article.

**[(3)] (4)** “Licensed optometrist” means an optometrist who is licensed by the State Board of Examiners in Optometry to practice optometry as described in § 11-101 of the Health Occupations Article.

**[(4)] (5)** “Licensed physician” means a physician, including a doctor of osteopathy, who is licensed by the State Board of Physicians to practice medicine as described in § 14-101 of the Health Occupations Article.

**[(5)] (6)** “Licensed podiatrist” means a podiatrist who is licensed by the State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners to practice podiatry as described in § 16-101 of the Health Occupations Article.

- (b) (1) The owner of any vehicle described in paragraph (3) of this subsection may apply to the Administration for the assignment to that vehicle of a special disability registration number and special disability registration plates, if a

**CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER**, licensed physician, licensed chiropractor, licensed optometrist, or licensed podiatrist certifies, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, that the applicant:

(i) Has lung disease to such an extent that forced (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter, or arterial oxygen tension (PO<sub>2</sub>) is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

(ii) Has cardiovascular disease limitations classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards accepted by the American Heart Association;

(iii) Is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

(iv) Is unable to walk without the use of, or assistance from, a brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, or other assistive device;

(v) Requires a wheelchair for mobility;

(vi) Has lost a foot, leg, hand, or arm;

(vii) Has lost the use of a foot, leg, hand, or arm;

(viii) Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that:

1. The central visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses; or

2. There is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye; or

(ix) Has a permanent disability that adversely impacts the ambulatory ability of the applicant and which is so severe that the person would endure a hardship or be subject to a risk of injury if the privileges accorded a person for whom a vehicle is specially registered under this section were denied.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the qualifying disabilities specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be certified as follows:

(i) A licensed physician **OR CERTIFIED NURSE PRACTITIONER** may certify conditions specified in paragraph (1)(i) through (ix) of this subsection;

(ii) A licensed chiropractor or a licensed podiatrist may certify conditions specified in paragraph (1)(iii) through (vii) and (ix) of this subsection;

(iii) A licensed optometrist may certify the condition specified in paragraph (1)(viii) of this subsection; and

(iv) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (1) of this subsection, the applicant may self-certify conditions specified in paragraph (1)(vi) of this subsection by appearing in person with proper identification at a full-service Motor Vehicle Administration office during normal business hours.

(3) This section applies only to:

(i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

(ii) A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;

(iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle;

(iv) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's rated capacity; or

(v) A Class H, I, or J vehicle that is specially equipped for the transportation of individuals with disabilities and is used exclusively for the transportation of individuals with disabilities.

(4) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a nursing home, health care facility, adult day care facility, retirement home, or other facility that regularly provides transportation for individuals with disabilities may apply to the Administration for special disability registration for vehicles owned by the facility.

(ii) An application for special disability registration under this paragraph shall contain:

1. The certification of the owner or operator of the facility that the vehicle for which the registration is sought is used exclusively for the transportation of individuals with disabilities as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

2. Any other information or documentation concerning the facility or the vehicle that the Administration requires.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2008.**