

香港特別行政區政府
保安局



The Government of the
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
Security Bureau

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18 July 2014

Chairman of Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Mr. Colin CHUI)

Dear Mr. CHUI,

**Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services
Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy
Hospice Care Service**

I refer to your letter dated 2.7.2014 and would like to provide the following response for your reference: -

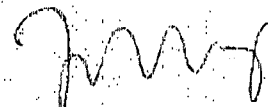
- (a) At this stage, the Fire Service Department (FSD) does not plan to instruct ambulance personnel to follow the Do-Not-Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) Guidelines of the Hospital Authority (HA) in making decision on resuscitation or other emergency aids for terminally ill patients in the course of discharging its statutory duties.
- (b) According to legal advice, there appears to be a conflict between the implementation of DNACPR, which is a form of Advance Directive (AD), and the statutory obligations of the FSD officers under section 7(d) of Fire Services Ordinance (Cap. 95) which mandates initiation of life-sustaining measures.

Under section 7(d) of Cap. 95, FSD has the statutory duty to assist any person who appears to need prompt or immediate medical attention by resuscitating or sustaining his life.

The primary objective of an AD is however for advance refusal of life-sustaining treatments to minimize stress or indignity when the patient faces a serious irreversible illness. It is a medical decision to be determined by medical professional as to whether or not giving life-sustaining treatment to the patient will reduce his suffering and distress, or what alternative on-the-spot treatment can be given to the patient. It may therefore be necessary to ascertain the validity of the AD/DNACPR Form with HA, to seek necessary medical advice on alternative treatment before the FSD members can decide whether CPR or other treatment can be withheld for a particular patient. Such confirmation may not be feasible in an emergency situation where the FSD members have to make such on-the spot confirmation within a very short time in the absence of an efficient, effective and reliable communication system/mechanism.

Unless the above can be dealt with, it will not be feasible for FSD to implement such DNACPR Guidelines at present.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Jenny WONG)
for Secretary for Security

- c.c. Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Attn.: Miss Belinda AU)
(Fax No. : 2523 1973)
Secretary for Food and Health (Attn.: Mr. Edmond WONG)
(Fax No. : 2840 0467)