



CHAPTER 90
ARTICLE 23 - RIGHT TO NATURAL DEATH; BRAIN DEATH

N.C.G.S. § 90-320.

General purpose of Article.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT S.L. 2007-502, s. 10 — fourth act in the lineage	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:45 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT cf1b90d61e48083a097bf7da - 44b62aa123842e30ba5a9abd - d3c89dbcbe7089dc
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§ 90-320(a) The General Assembly recognizes as a matter of public policy that an individual's rights include the right to a peaceful and natural death and that a patient or the patient's representative has the fundamental right to control the decisions relating to the rendering of the patient's own medical care, including the decision to have life-prolonging measures withheld or withdrawn in instances of a terminal condition. This Article is to establish an optional and nonexclusive procedure by which a patient or the patient's representative may exercise these rights. A military advanced medical directive executed in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 1044 or other applicable law is valid in this State.

§ 90-320(b) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to authorize any affirmative or deliberate act or omission to end life other than to permit the natural process of dying. Nothing in this Article shall impair or supersede any legal right or legal responsibility which any person may have to effect the withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging measures in any lawful manner. In such respect the provisions of this Article are cumulative.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
4 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT

Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1977	c. 815	ENACTED
02	1979	c. 715, s. 1	AMENDED
03	1983	c. 313, s. 1	AMENDED
04	2007	S.L. 2007-502, s. 10	AMENDED

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-320 (2007).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-320(a) (2007).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE
(1977, c. 815; 1979, c. 715, s. 1; 1983, c. 313, s. 1; 2007-502, s. 10.)

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