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| SECTION: | Foundations and Basic Commitments | APPROVAL DATE: |
| SUBSECTION: | The Dignity of Person | June 26, 1995 |
| POLICY NAME: | Resuscitation of Terminally Ill Students | LAST REVISED: |
| POLICY NUMBER: | R.FBC.B.5 | March 1, 1999 |

A. PREAMBLE

The Wellington Catholic District School Board is obligated to protect and safeguard the health of students entrusted to its care in a reasonable, responsible manner, consistent with what reasonable, responsible parents or guardians might do in similar situations.

In the event that a medical emergency arises, the Board through its employees, will continue to seek immediate and appropriate medical treatment for any student entrusted to its care.

Since educators are not health care professionals, they should not be required or expected to make any medical decisions related to any student for which a "Do Not Resuscitate" code is in effect. Only qualified and trained individuals in the health care field acting upon clear and concise instruction from the student's parents or guardians or an adult student can appropriately respond to such a situation.

The only exception to this occurs when a Do Not Resuscitate Order is issued by the court having regard to the best interests of the student. In the event that there is such an order, the order must be complied with.

B. DEFINITIONS

What is a Do Not Resuscitate Order?

A directive to withhold life saving treatment, usually in the case of cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

Who Decides?

The parent or legal guardian in consultation with medical authorities.

When can it apply?

In cases where attempts to resuscitate can do no medical good or in cases where the suffering inflicted is greater than any good that arises from treatment. Most often applied in terminally ill cases.

Where can it apply?

Anywhere, including hospitals, schools or at home. It is usually followed in hospitals where medical staff are available to judge whether a condition is life-threatening or not.

C. PROCEDURES FOR THE INCLUSION OF A STUDENT IN SCHOOL WITH A NON-RESUSCITATION CODE

1. The parent and/or their delegate will meet with the school principal and request that the student attend school with a Non-Resuscitation Code in effect.
2. An adult student, competent to execute a Release and Indemnification Agreement (see appendix 1) will meet with the school principal and request that he/she attend school with a Non-Resuscitation Code in effect.
3. The principal will inform the superintendent of the request.
4. At the initial meeting, the principal will inform the parents/guardian or adult student that the Wellington Catholic District School Board will not agree to abide by the Non-Resuscitation Code until the following are in effect and/or received by the school principal;
 - a) a copy of the Do Not Resuscitate court order
 - b) a doctor's report is completed and is provided to the principal
 - c) in the event that the Non-Resuscitation Order involves an adult student, the doctor will address the competence of the adult student to understand and comprehend the nature and effect of a Non-Resuscitation Code
 - d) the parent's or adult student's Release and Indemnification acknowledgement for the Non-Resuscitation Code is signed and given to the principal
 - e) a registered nurse, *or a duly authorized appointed and informed substitute, has been assigned by the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Home Care program and is always present when the student is in the care of the school.
* Any future reference to a registered nurse in these regulations will also imply the services of a duly, authorized, appointed and informed substitute.
 - f) appropriate in-service has been provided to staff and students
 - g) when an adult student is involved, all documentation will be forwarded by the principal to the superintendent, and where appropriate, to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Home Care Services. The superintendent will forward this documentation to a legal counsel as selected by the Board for further consultation
5. After the student with the Non-Resuscitation Code has been included in the school, the principal will conduct a meeting of such personnel as the doctor, school social worker, case worker and Crisis Response Team member and Wellington Home Care program staff. This team will work with staff and students, if necessary, to assist them understand the nature of the court order as it applies to the student.
6. The principal will develop a plan, in co-operation with the family of the student and the Home Care representative that will address:
 - a) the need to have the student at home when he/she is too ill to attend school
 - b) plans to have the student return home when, in registered nurse's judgement, there is a significant deterioration in the student's condition
 - c) the provision of a private location that should be made available within the school for the student and the registered nurse should an emergency arise
 - d) action to be taken in the case of an emergency or death of the student.
 The plan will also detail the required communication to the parents of the student as well as record the parents' wish with respect to the Sacrament of the Sick and Prayers for the Dying.
7. When necessary, transportation of the student and the registered nurse, will be provided by the Wellington Catholic District School Board to and from school each day.
8. The principal will maintain a copy of all the documentation and school plans specific to the student with the Do Not Resuscitate Code.

9. If for any reason the registered nurse, or the duly authorized appointed and informed substitute, is not in attendance or not available when the student with the Do Not Resuscitate Code is present, the Board and its employees will **not** abide by the Do Not Resuscitate Code. The Board and its employees will initiate usual responses to seek medical attention and thereby protect and safeguard the student's health as it would do for any other student entrusted to its care.