**Default Surrogate Consent Statutes**

*January 1, 2018*

**Explanation:** The descriptors in the chart are generalizations of statutory language and not quotations, so the statutes must be consulted for precise meaning. The default surrogacy statute language varies from state to state and the listed descriptors generally hold the following meanings:
- **Adult** includes any person who is 18 years of age or older, is the parent of the child, or has married;
- **Close friend (Adult friend)** is one who has maintained regular contact with the patient as to be familiar with the patient’s activities, health, and religious or moral beliefs.
- **Provisions in red** are those addressing patients with no available qualified surrogate.

**CAUTION:** The descriptions and limitations listed in this chart are broad characterizations for comparison purposes and are not precise quotations from legislative language.

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| 1. ALABAMA      | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes  
¡§13.52.010(a) and  
¡§13.52.030(c) |  • Spouse (unless legally separated/divorcing)  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Nearest adult relative  
• Att. physician & ethics committee | Patient must be in terminal condition or permanently unconscious. Certification requirements. | Yes  
¡§22-8A-11(c) | Judicial recourse, §22-8a-11 |
| 2. ALASKA       | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes  
¡§13.52.010(a) and  
¡§13.52.030(c) |  • Individual orally designated by patient  
• Spouse  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult Sibling  
• Close friend | Patient has to be an adult  
N/A to withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining procedures UNLESS patient is in "terminal condition" or "permanent unconsciousness.” Certification requirements.  
Mental health treatment limitations and anatomical gift limitations, see A.S.  
§13.52.173 and §13.52.193  
Exceptional procedures (abortion, sterilization, psychosurgery, and/or removal of organs) limitations under A.S.  
§13.52.050. | Yes  
¡§13.52.030(g) | Majority rule for adult children, parents, or siblings; and if deadlock, then primary physician decides |
| 3. ARIZONA      | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes  
¡§13.52.010(a) and  
¡§13.52.030(c) |  • Spouse (unless legally separated)  
• Adult child (if multiple, health care provider will seek a majority opinion from those available)  
• Parent  
• Domestic partner, if unmarried  
• Sibling  
• Close friend  
• Att. physician in consult with ethics committee or, if none, 2nd physician | Mental health treatment limitations | Yes  
¡§36-3203(C) | Majority rule for adult children  
Judicial recourse for all others, §36-3206 |
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<td>4. ARKANSAS</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>Yes §20-6-105</td>
<td>A surrogate is designated by the health care provider in the following order of preference conditional on the surrogate being an adult who: (i) has exhibited special care and concern for the principal; (ii) is familiar with the principal’s personal values; (iii) is reasonably available; and (iv) is willing to serve. Consideration may be given to the following order of preference: • An adult designated orally or in writing • Spouse (unless legally separated) • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Adult relative • Close friend • Att. Physician in consult with ethics officer or committee or 2nd physician</td>
<td>Certification requirements for withdrawing or withholding of artificial nutrition or hydration A.C.A. §20-6-106</td>
<td>Yes, §20-6-106</td>
<td>Judicial recourse, §20-6-115</td>
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<td>5. CALIFORNIA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>Yes §4623 and §4711</td>
<td>Only orally designated surrogate</td>
<td>For orally designated surrogate: Effective “only during the course of treatment or illness or during the stay in the health care institution when the designation is made, or for 60 days, whichever period is shorter.” N/A to civil commitment, electro-convulsive therapy, psychosurgery, sterilization, and abortion</td>
<td>Yes §4714</td>
<td>N/A since designated surrogate is presumably one person</td>
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<td>Specialized provision applicable only to medical research</td>
<td>• Spouse • Domestic partner • Adult child • Custodial parent • Adult sibling • Adult grandchild • Adult relative with the closest degree of kinship Note: Different rules apply to emergency room experimental consent</td>
<td>Consent restricted to medical experiments that relate to the cognitive impairment, lack of capacity, or serious, or life threatening diseases and conditions of research participants. This provision N/A to persons involuntarily committed or voluntarily committed by a conservator under the Welfare &amp; Institutions Code</td>
<td>Yes §24178(g)</td>
<td>Consensus needed</td>
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<td>Specialized provision applicable only to nursing homes</td>
<td>• Next of kin:” • The attending physician and surgeon in accordance with an interdisciplinary team review</td>
<td>Applies when “the attending physician and surgeon of a resident in a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility prescribes or orders a medical intervention that requires informed consent”</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not addressed</td>
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| **6. COLORADO**  | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes § 2507                          | The following "interested persons" must decide who among them shall be surrogate decision-maker:  
  | | | • Spouse  
  | | | • Parent  
  | | | • Adult child  
  | | | • Sibling  
  | | | • Adult Grandchild  
  | | | • Close friend  
  | | | • Physician designated by attending physician after obtaining consensus on the designation with ethics committee. Certain decisions are subject to other criteria and procedures, including ethics committee concurrence and/or 2nd consulting physician concurrence.  
  | | | Certification requirements for withholding or withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration, §15-18.5-103  
  | | | Yes, §15-18.5-103(4)(a) Consensus or judicial action in the form of a guardianship  
  | | | Consensus needed on selection of the surrogate. If lack of consensus, judicial recourse (guardianship) §15-18.5-103 |
| **7. CONNECTICUT** | Part of Public health chapter on “Removal of Life Support Systems” | Physician, in consultation with next of kin in the following priority: (A) The spouse of the patient; (B) an adult son or daughter of the patient; (C) either parent of the patient; (D) an adult brother or sister of the patient; and (E) a grandparent of the patient (§19a-570) Oral communications re: withholding life support by patient made part of medical record per §19a-570  
  | | | Limited to the removal or withholding of life support systems, and patient is in terminal condition or permanently unconscious  
  | | | Yes §19a-571(a)  
  | | | judicial recourse, §19a-580c |
| **8. DELAWARE**   | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes § 2507                          | An individual orally designated as surrogate  
  | | | • Spouse, unless petition for divorce  
  | | | • Adult child  
  | | | • Parent  
  | | | • Adult sibling  
  | | | • Adult grandchild  
  | | | • Adult niece or nephew  
  | | | • Adult aunt or uncle  
  | | | • Close friend  
  | | | NOTE: Surrogate is disqualified if protective order against the individual is filed or in existence.  
  | | | Adult patient must be in terminal condition or permanently unconscious, documented in writing with its nature and cause 2507(b)(7)  
  | | | Pregnancy limitation, §2503(j)  
  | | | Yes §2507(b)(8)  
  | | | If in a health care institution, refer to “appropriate committee” for a recommendation. §2507(b)(9)  
  | | | Judicial recourse, §2511 |
| **9. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** | Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Act | Yes §21-2210(b) | Spouse or domestic partner  
  | | | Adult child  
  | | | Parent  
  | | | Adult Sibling  
  | | | Religious superior if in religious order or a diocesan priest  
  | | | Close friend*  
  | | | Nearest living relative  
  | | | * Close friend may not be an individual or facility provider  
  | | | Incapacity certified in accordance with DC Code §21-2204  
  | | | N/A to abortion, sterilization, or psycho-surgery, convulsive therapy or behavior modification programs involving aversive stimuli are excluded  
  | | | At least 1 witness must be present whenever surrogate grants, refuses or withdraws consent on behalf of the patient.  
<p>| | | Yes DC Code §21-2210 (e)-(f), legal standing to challenge higher priority standard and rebuttable presumption established |</p>
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| **10. FLORIDA** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes | • Spouse  
• Adult child or majority of adult children if more than one  
• Parent  
• Adult Sibling or majority of adult siblings if more than one• Close adult relative  
• Close friend  
• Licensed clinical social worker selected by bioethics committee, and if decision is to forgo life-prolonging procedures, must be reviewed by bioethics committee.  
• For person in persistent vegetative state, guardian is required. | N/A to abortion, sterilization, electroshock therapy, psychosurgery, experimental treatment not approved by IRB, or voluntary admission to a mental health facility.  
Pregnancy limitation, §765.113 | Yes §765.401(2) and (3) | Majority rule for adult children or siblings.  
Judicial recourse not addressed. |
| **11. GEORGIA** | Informed Consent Statute | No | • Spouse; or any parent, adult or minor of minor child  
• Person standing in loco parentis for minor child or ward  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Grandparent  
• Adult first degree relation (niece, nephew, aunt, or uncle)  
• Close friend | Can consent to any surgical or medical treatment procedures not prohibited by law upon physician advice  
Not explicitly applicable to refusals of treatment, but nevertheless should be applicable. | Yes §31-9-2(b) | None provided |
| | DNR Statute | | • Spouse  
• Guardian (comes after spouse)  
• Adult Child  
• Parent  
• Sibling (31-39-2)  
• Physician w/ concurrence of 2nd physician and ethics committee (31-39-4(e)) unless individual is a hospice or home health agency patient. | Applies only to consent to DNR orders | Yes §31-39-4(c) | None provided |
| | Specialized provision applicable to Temporary Health Care Placement | | • Spouse  
• Adult Child  
• Parent  
• Sibling  
• Grandparent  
• Adult grandchild  
• Aunt or Uncle  
• Nephew or Niece | Applies only to decisions regarding admission to or discharge from one health care facility or placement, or transfer to another health care facility or placement.  
Excludes involuntary placement for mental illness (governed by Title 37) | Yes 31-36A-6(b) | None provided |
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| **12. HAWAII**  | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes §327E-3 and §327E-5 | • An individual orally designated as surrogate If none, the following "interested persons" must decide who among them shall be surrogate decision-maker:  
  • Spouse (unless separated or estranged)  
  • Reciprocal beneficiary  
  • Adult child  
  • Parent  
  • Adult Sibling  
  • Adult Grandchild  
  • Close friend | None for orally designated surrogate, but an “interested person” may make a decision to withhold or withdraw nutrition and hydration only if two physicians certify that providing it will merely prolong the act of dying and the patient is highly unlikely to have any neurological response in the future. | Yes §327E-5(g) | Consensus needed on the selection of the surrogate. If lack of consensus, judicial recourse (guardianship), §327E-5(d) |
| **13. IDAHO**   | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | • Spouse  
  • Adult child  
  • Parent  
  • Person named in a delegation of parental authority executed pursuant to § 15-5-104  
  • A relative representing self as appropriate, responsible person  
  • Other individual representing self to be responsible for the person’s health care  
  • In a medical emergency, attending physician or dentist may authorize and/or provide such care, treatment or procedure as he or she deems appropriate, and all persons, agencies and institutions thereafter furnishing the same, including such physician or dentist, may proceed as if informed, valid consent therefor had been otherwise duly given. | None listed | Indirect in statement of policy: "Any authentic expression of a person's wishes with respect to health care should be honored." ICS 39-4509(3) | None provided |
| **14. ILLINOIS** | Health Care Surrogate Act | • Spouse  
  • Adult child  
  • Parent  
  • Adult Sibling  
  • Adult grandchild  
  • Close friend | N/A to admission to mental health facility, psychotropic medication or electo-convulsive therapy (see 5/2-102; 5/3-601.2, amended 1997)  
If decision concerns forgoing life-sustaining treatment, patient must be in terminal condition, permanently unconscious, or incurable or irreversible condition. | Yes §40/20(b) | Majority rule for children, siblings and grandchildren. Judicial recourse (guardianship), §40/25(d) |
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| **15. INDIANA** | Health Care Agency (durable power) and Surrogate Consent Act | Any of the following:  
- Spouse  
- Parent  
- Adult child  
- Adult Sibling  
- Religious superior if the individual is a member of a religious order | None listed | Yes §16-36-1-5(d) | A health care provider or any interested person (as defined in IC 30-5-2-6) may petition the probate court in the county where the individual who is the subject of the petition is present for purposes of receiving health care to:  
1. make a health care decision or order health care for an individual incapable of consenting; or  
2. appoint a representative to act for the individual. §§16-36-1-8(a) |
| **16. IOWA** | Living Will Statute |  
- Spouse  
- Adult child  
- Parent or parents  
- Adult sibling | Limited to the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures, and patient is in terminal condition or comatose  
A witness must “be present at the time of the consultation when that decision is made.”  
Pregnancy limitation, §144A.7(3) | Yes §144A.7(1) | Majority rule for adult children  
Judicial recourse not addressed |
| **17. KANSAS** | Specialized provision, applicable only to consent to medical research |  
- Spouse, unless legally separated  
- Adult child  
- Parent  
- A relative  
Note: Authority of guardian or agent with authority to make health care decisions is specifically acknowledged. | Consent is restricted to research protocols that have been approved by an institutional review board.  
Cannot consent if contrary to the incapacitated person's permission, expressed orally or in writing | No | None provided |
| **18. KENTUCKY** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act |  
- Spouse  
- Adult child  
- Parents  
- Nearest adult relative | N/A to withholding or withdrawal artificial nutrition and hydration unless specified conditions are met | Yes §311.631(3) | Majority rule for adult children and nearest relative  
Judicial recourse not addressed |
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<td>19. LOUISIANA</td>
<td>Living Will Statute</td>
<td>• Spouse, if not judicially separated • Adult child • Parents • Sibling • Other ascendants or descendants (direct blood line relatives) • “Adult friend”</td>
<td>Limited to executing a LW (&quot;Declaration&quot;) for patient in terminal and irreversible condition or comatose</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority</td>
<td>Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td>La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §40:1151.4 (West 2017)</td>
<td>Medical Consent Law</td>
<td>• Spouse, if not judicially separated • Adult child • Parents • Sibling • Other ascendants or descendants (direct blood line relatives) • “Adult friend” • Any person temporarily standing in loco parentis for a minor • A person chosen by an interdisciplinary team (for person w/ developmental disability) • Attending Physician, with confirmation by a 2nd physician who personally examines pt §40:1159.4</td>
<td>Abortion • Sterilization • Treatment of mental illness §1159.2 and .3</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None provided</td>
<td>Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td>20. MAINE</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>• Spouse, unless legally separated • Adult in spouse-like relationship • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Adult grandchild • Adult niece or nephew • Adult aunt or uncle • Adult relative familiar with patient's values • Close friend</td>
<td>If decision pertains to withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment , patient must be in terminal condition or persistent vegetative state under §5-805(a) N/A to denial of surgery, procedures, or other interventions that are deemed medically necessary Admission to mental health institution</td>
<td>Yes §5-805(f)</td>
<td>Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority</td>
<td>Provider may refer them “to a neutral 3rd party for assistance in resolving the dispute”</td>
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<td>Me. Rev. Stat. Ann tit. 18-A, §§5-801 to -817 (West 2017) Specifically, see §5-805.</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A to sterilization or treatment for mental disorder Applicable to life-sustaining procedure only if the patient has been certified to be in a terminal condition, persistent vegetative state, or end-stage condition</td>
<td>Yes §5-605(c)</td>
<td>If in hospital or nursing home, refer to ethics committee</td>
<td>If elsewhere, consensus needed</td>
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<td>21. MARYLAND</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>Yes §5-602(d)</td>
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<td>22. MASSACHUSETTS</td>
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<td>23. MICHIGAN</td>
<td>Health Care disclosure and consent act.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>• &quot;a member of the immediate family, the next of kin, or the guardian&quot; (priority not specified)</td>
<td>Applies when patient has a &quot;reduced life expectancy due to advanced illness&quot;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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| 24. MINNESOTA   | None                    | Yes | Individual orally designated by patient  
• Spouse, unless legally separated  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Close friend  
• Owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution (but see limitations in next column) | Admission to mental health institution.  
If surrogate is owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution, then the authority does not extend to decisions to withhold or discontinue life support, nutrition, hydration, or other treatment, care, or support. §41-41-215(9) | Yes §41-41-211(6) | Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority  
Judicial recourse not addressed |
| 25. MISSISSIPPI | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes | §41-41-211 | Specifications | §50-5-1304 | Judicial recourse §50-5-1305 (petition for temporary guardian) |
|                 |                         | |                                                                                  |                                 |                                      |                                        |
| 26. MISSOURI    | None                    | Yes | Individual orally designated by patient  
• Spouse, unless legally separated  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Close friend  
• Owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution (but see limitations in next column) | Admission to mental health institution.  
If surrogate is owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution, then the authority does not extend to decisions to withhold or discontinue life support, nutrition, hydration, or other treatment, care, or support. §41-41-215(9) | Yes §41-41-211(6) | Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority  
Judicial recourse not addressed |
| 27. MONTANA     | Separate proxy decision-making part within state hospital and related facilities code | Yes | The following "interested persons" must decide who among them shall be surrogate decision-maker (§50-5-1303):  
• Spouse  
• Parent  
• Adult child  
• Sibling  
• Adult Grandchild  
• Close friend  
• Another physician or APN designated by the attending health care provider if conditions are met, including certification of lack of decisional capacity and medical ethics committee approval of designation.§50-5-1304 | Specifies decision-making criteria and procedures, including ethics committee concurrence and second consulting physician concurrence for end-of-life treatment decisions. §50-5-1305 | Partly §50-5-1305 | Judicial recourse §50-5-1305 (petition for temporary guardian) |
|                 |                         | |                                                                                  |                                 |                                      |                                        |
|                 | Living Will Statute     | Yes | Spouse  
Adult child  
Parents  
Adult sibling  
Nearest adult relative | Limited to withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment , and patient is in terminal condition  
Pregnancy limitation, §50-9-106(7) | Yes §50-9-106(4) | Majority rule for adult children and siblings  
Judicial recourse not addressed |
| 28. NEBRASKA    | None                    | Yes | Individual orally designated by patient  
• Spouse, unless legally separated  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Close friend  
• Owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution (but see limitations in next column) | Admission to mental health institution.  
If surrogate is owner, operator, or employee of residential long-term care institution, then the authority does not extend to decisions to withhold or discontinue life support, nutrition, hydration, or other treatment, care, or support. §41-41-215(9) | Yes §41-41-211(6) | Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority  
Judicial recourse not addressed |

**Notes:**
- Michigan: Specifically, see §333.5653(g) and .5655(b).
- Mississippi: Specifically, see §§41-41-203(s), -211, and -215(9).
- Montana: Specifically, see §50-9-106.
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<td><strong>29. NEVADA</strong></td>
<td>Nevada Rev. Stat. §§ 449.535 to - .690 (2017)</td>
<td>Living Will Statute and POLST Statute</td>
<td>§ 449.626: • Spouse • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Nearest adult relative • Close friend (but in POLST statute only) §449.6942</td>
<td>Limited to withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, and patient is in terminal condition</td>
<td>Yes §§449.626(4)</td>
<td>Majority rule for adult children and sibling Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>30. NEW HAMPSHIRE</strong></td>
<td>2014 N.H. Laws Ch. 239 (H.B. 1434), eff. 1/1/15</td>
<td>Amendment to the advance directive statute, N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 137-J:1 to - J:37</td>
<td>• Spouse or civil union partner • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Adult grandchild • Grandparent • Aunt/Uncle or niece/nephew • Close friend • Financial agent under POA or Conservator • Guardian of the estate</td>
<td>N/A to withholding or withdrawal artificial nutrition and hydration unless patient is “near death or permanently unconscious.” § 137-J:10 Authority effective for only 90 days.</td>
<td>Yes, § 137-J:6 “shall make health care decisions in accordance with the agent's or surrogate's knowledge of the principal's wishes and religious or moral beliefs, as stated orally or otherwise communicated by the principal, or, if the principal's wishes are unknown, in accordance with the agent's or surrogate's assessment of the principal's best interests and in accordance with accepted medical practice.”</td>
<td>Majority rule. § 137-J:36</td>
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<td><strong>31. NEW JERSEY</strong></td>
<td>NJ St. § 26:14-1 – 5 (West 2017) Specifically, see §25:14-5</td>
<td>Specialized provision applicable only to medical research</td>
<td>• Spouse or civil union partner • Adult child • Custodial parent • Adult sibling Adult grandchild (§26-14-5) • Nearest adult relative</td>
<td>Limited to medical research approved and monitored by an institutional review board, plus certain benefit/risk criteria must be met.</td>
<td>Yes NJ St.§ 26:14-5(d) plus procedural requirements for informed consent</td>
<td>Consensus needed Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td><strong>32. NEW MEXICO</strong>&lt;br&gt;N.M. Stat. Ann. 1978 §§24-7A-1 to -18 (West 2017) Specifically, see §24-7A-5</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>Yes §24-7A-5</td>
<td>• Spouse &lt;br&gt;• Individual in long-term spouse-like relationship &lt;br&gt;• Adult child &lt;br&gt;• Parent &lt;br&gt;• Adult sibling &lt;br&gt;• Grandparent &lt;br&gt;• Close friend</td>
<td>Admission to mental health facility §24-7A-13(E)</td>
<td>Yes §24-7A-5(F)</td>
<td>Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority §24-7A-5 (guardianship), § 24-7A-14</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>33. NEW YORK</strong>&lt;br&gt;N.Y. Family Health Care Decisions Act §§2994-A to -U (McKinney 2017) Specifically, see § 2994- D</td>
<td>Specialized Surrogate Consent Statute (applicable to health care provided in a hospital and nursing homes)</td>
<td>• Spouse or Domestic Partner &lt;br&gt;• Adult child &lt;br&gt;• Parent &lt;br&gt;• Adult sibling &lt;br&gt;• Close friend &lt;br&gt;• Attending Physician for routine medical treatment or, for major medical treatment, the attending physician must make a recommendation to the hospital for the treatment and have at least one other physician designated by the hospital to independently concur</td>
<td>Even if the patient lacks capacity, a patient’s objection to the surrogate’s decision will prevail unless a court of competent jurisdiction determines the patient is incompetent for all purposes, not just for health care decisions. Decisions to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment for a patient shall be authorized only if certain conditions are met and the attending physician or hospital concurs with the decision.</td>
<td>Yes 2994-d(4) and §2994-d(5)</td>
<td>Judicial recourse (guardianship), § 2994-R</td>
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<td>N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§2960 to 2979 (McKinney 2017) Specifically, see §§2965 &amp; 2966</td>
<td>Specialized Surrogate Consent Statute (applicable only to DNR orders)</td>
<td>• Spouse or domestic partner &lt;br&gt;• Adult child &lt;br&gt;• Parent &lt;br&gt;• Adult sibling &lt;br&gt;• Close friend &lt;br&gt;• Physician, with concurrence by a qualified second physician who personally examines patient that resuscitation is medically futile.</td>
<td>Limited to consent to a DNR order, and patient is in terminal condition, or permanently unconscious, or where resuscitation is futile or extraordinarily burdensome</td>
<td>Yes §2965(3)(a)</td>
<td>Refer to dispute mediation system Judicial recourse, Specifically, see §2973</td>
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<td><strong>34. NORTH CAROLINA</strong>&lt;br&gt;N.C. Gen. Stat. §90-320 to -328 (2017) Specifically, see §90-322</td>
<td>Living Will Statute</td>
<td>• Spouse &lt;br&gt;• Parents &lt;br&gt;• Adult Child &lt;br&gt;• Siblings &lt;br&gt;• Close friend &lt;br&gt;• Att. physician</td>
<td>Limited to the withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging measures where the patient is terminal or permanently unconscious.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Majority rule for parents, adult children &amp; siblings Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td><strong>35. NORTH DAKOTA</strong></td>
<td>Informed Consent Statute</td>
<td>• Spouse who has maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person • Adult children who have maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person • Parents, including stepparent who has maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person • Adult siblings who have maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person • Grandparents who have maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person • Adult grandchildren who have maintained significant contacts with incapacitated person</td>
<td>Not explicitly applicable to refusals of treatment, but nevertheless should be applicable. A determination of incapacity, over the patient’s objections, can be determined in a court hearing pursuant to chapter 30.1-28.</td>
<td>N/A to sterilization, abortion, psychosurgery, and admission to a state mental facility for &gt; 45 days</td>
<td>Yes §23-12-13(3)</td>
<td>None provided</td>
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<td><strong>36. OHIO</strong></td>
<td>Living Will Statute</td>
<td>• Spouse • Adult child • Parents • Adult sibling • Nearest adult relative</td>
<td>Limited to consent for withdrawal or withholding of life-sustaining treatment, and patient has been in terminal condition or permanently unconscious for at least 12 months. Nutrition and hydration may be withheld only upon the issuance of an order of the probate court, §2133.09</td>
<td>Pregnancy limitation, §2133.08(G)</td>
<td>Yes §2133.08(D)(3)</td>
<td>Majority rule for adult children and siblings Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td><strong>37. OKLAHOMA</strong></td>
<td>Specialized provision applicable only to medical research</td>
<td>• Spouse • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Relative by blood or marriage</td>
<td>Limited to experimental treatment, test or drug approved by a local institutional review board.</td>
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<td>Yes §3101.16</td>
<td>Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td>38. OREGON</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>• Spouse • Adult designated by others on this list, without objection by anyone on list • Adult child • Parent • Sibling • Adult relative or close friend • Att. Physician, includes naturopathic physicians, per 2017 Oregon laws Ch. 135 (H.B. 2393)</td>
<td>Limited to terminal condition or permanently unconscious, or advanced progressive illness, or treatment that will cause permanent and severe pain. Before withdrawal or withholding, consultation is required with concerned family &amp; close friends, and after notice to case manager, if there is one. Case manager must provide any information the case manager has that is related to the principal’s values, beliefs and preferences with respect to the decisions.</td>
<td>Yes §127.535(4) &amp; 127.535(6)</td>
<td>Majority rule for adult children and siblings Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td>39. PENNSYLVANIA</td>
<td>Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act</td>
<td>• Spouse • Adult designated by others on this list, without objection by anyone on list • Adult child • Parent • Adult sibling • Adult grandchild • Close friend Note: Individual may provide for a different order of priority, by signed writing.</td>
<td>Pregnancy limitation, Pa. Stat. Ann. tit. 20, §5429 Surrogate health care decision maker may not execute an advance health care directive or name a health care agent on behalf of an incompetent individual.</td>
<td>Yes Tit. 20, §§5456 &amp; 5461</td>
<td>Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority Judicial recourse not addressed</td>
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<td>40. RHODE ISLAND</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>41. SOUTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>Separate Surrogate Consent Act</td>
<td>• Person given priority to make health-care decisions for the patient by another statute • Spouse, unless separated or divorced • Parent or adult child • Adult sibling, grandparent, or adult grandchild • Other close relative • Person given authority to make health-care decisions for the patient by another statutory provision • If none of the above, health care may be provided w/o consent “if necessary for the relief of suffering or restoration of bodily function or to preserve the life, health, or bodily integrity of the patient.” §44-66-50</td>
<td>N/A if patient's inability to consent is temporary and delay of treatment will not result in significant detriment to the patient's health</td>
<td>Yes §44-66-30(F)</td>
<td>Consensus needed Judicial recourse. Specifically, see §44-66-30(D)</td>
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| **42. SOUTH DAKOTA** | Separate Surrogate Consent Act | Yes |  Spouse  
  Adult child  
  Parent  
  Adult sibling  
  Grandparent or adult grandchild  
  Aunt or uncle or adult niece or nephew  
  Adult cousin  
  Close friend (An authorized surrogate may delegate authority to another person in same or succeeding class) | None listed | Yes $34-12C-3 | Consensus needed  
 Judicial recourse not addressed |
| **43. TENNESSEE** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes | Supervising health care provider selects from the following order of preference under criteria provided:  
 Individual designated by patient  
 Spouse  
 Adult child  
 Parent  
 Adult sibling  
 Other adult relative  
 Close friend  
 Primary Physician, in consultation with ethics committee or independent 2nd physician  
 Disqualified surrogates:  
 Indiv. Provider  
 Facility Provider  
 Person who is the subject of a protective order that directs the person to avoid contact with the patient | Any matter governed by the mental health code.  
 Except for individual designated by the patient, other surrogates cannot make decision to w/h or w/d artificial nutrition & hydration without certification by 2 physicians of medical prerequisites. | Yes $68-11-1806(d) | Provider selects surrogate using criteria provided under $68-11-1806(c)(4) |
| **44. TEXAS** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes | Physician and:  
 Spouse  
 Adult children  
 Parents  
 Nearest relative  
 Att. Physician, with concurrence of independent 2nd physician or physician member of ethics committee | Pregnancy limitation, §166.049 | Yes $166.039(c) | Judicial recourse (guardianship), $166.039(g) |
<p>| Tex. [Health &amp; Safety] Code Ann. §166.081 to .101 (Vernon 2017) Specifically, see §166.088(b) | Specialized provision (applicable to DNR orders) | (Same as above. Incorporates the terms of §166.039) | Pregnancy limitation, §166.098 | Yes $166.088(c) | Judicial recourse (guardianship), §166.039(g) |</p>
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| Tex. [Health & Safety] Code Ann. §313.001 to .006 (Vernon 2017) Specifically, see 313.004 | Specialized provision applicable to patients in home & community support services or in a hospital or nursing home | Yes | • Spouse  
• Adult child (who has the waiver and consent of all other qualified adult children of the patient to act as the sole decision-maker)  
• Majority of the patient's reasonably available adult children  
• Parents  
• the individual clearly identified to act for the patient by the patient before the patient became incapacitated  
• Nearest living relative  
• Member of the clergy | • Voluntary inpatient mental health services;  
• Electro-convulsive treatment; or  
• Appointment of another surrogate decision-maker. | Yes §313.004(c) | Consensus, in the case of adult children surrogates  
Judicial recourse, §313.004(b) |
| 45. UTAH | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes §75-2a-103 & §75-2a-107 | The following "interested persons" must decide who among them shall be designated as surrogate decision-maker:  
• Spouse  
• Adult Child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Adult grandchild  
• Grandparent  
• Close friend  
• Member of the clergy  
• Close friend tit. 18, §9701(18) | Surrogate may not admit the adult to a licensed health care facility for long-term custodial placement other than for assessment, rehabilitative, or respite care over the objection of the adult  
Pregnancy limitation, §75-2a-123 | Yes §75-2a-110(1) | Majority rule inside the highest available priority level.  
Judicial recourse, §75-2a-120 |
| 46. VERMONT | DNR/POLST provision | Yes §9731(c)(1) |  
The following "interested persons" must decide who among them shall be designated as surrogate decision-maker:  
• Spouse  
• Adult Child  
• Parent  
• Sibling  
• Grandchild  
• Clergy person  
• Close friend  
• Close friend tit. 18, §9701(18) | Limited to making decisions about DNR orders or Clinician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment | Yes Tit. 18, §9731(e)  
For nursing home residents; tit. 33, §7306(c) | Consensus needed on selection of the surrogate or on the specific health decision. If lack of consensus, judicial recourse (guardianship) tit. 18, §9731(d)(2) |
| 47. VIRGINIA | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Yes §54.1-2983 | • Spouse  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Adult sibling  
• Other relative in the descending order of blood relationship  
• Close friend  
• Close friend  
• Close friend tit. 18, §9701(18) | N/A to non-therapeutic sterilization, abortion, psychosurgery, or admission to a mental retardation facility or psychiatric hospital  
Close friend cannot consent to the withholding or withdrawal of life-prolonging measures | Yes §54.1-2986.1(B) | Majority rule |
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| **48. WASHINGTON** | Informed Consent Statute | • Spouse or registered domestic partner  
• Adult children  
• Parents  
• Adult siblings | Not explicitly applicable to refusals of treatment, but nevertheless should be applicable. | No | Yes §7.70.065(1)(b) and (c) | Consensus needed |
| **WASHINGTON** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | Att. Physician or Advanced Nurse Practitioner selects from the following order of preference under criteria provided:  
• Spouse  
• Adult child  
• Parents  
• Adult sibling  
• Adult grandchild  
• Close friend  
• Any other person or entity according to DHHR rules | None listed | Yes | Not applicable since provider selects surrogate. | |
| **49. WEST VIRGINIA** | Specialized Surrogate Consent Statute applicable to certain facility admissions | • Spouse or domestic partner §50.06.3(a)  
• Adult child  
• Grandparent  
• Adult grandchild  
• Close friend | Limited to consent to admission to nursing home and certain community-based residential facilities for up to 60 days, with 30 day extension possible, and only if:  
1. The incapacitated person is not diagnosed as developmentally disabled or having a mental illness at time of admission  
2. Petitions for guardianship and protective placement are filed prior to admission | No | | Consensus needed |
| **50. WISCONSIN** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | • Individual designated by personally informing the supervising health care provider  
• Spouse, unless legally separated  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Grandparent  
• Adult sibling  
• Adult grandchild  
• Close friend | None listed | Yes | Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority  
Judicial recourse, §35-22-415 | |
<p>| <strong>51. WYOMING</strong> | Com |</p>
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</table>
| **UNIFORM HEALTH-CARE DECISIONS ACT (1994)** | Comprehensive Health Care Decisions Act | • Individual orally designated by patient  
• Spouse  
• Adult child  
• Parent  
• Sibling  
• Close friend | None listed | Yes §5(f) | Majority rule if more than one member of any class assumes authority |

CAUTION: The descriptions and limitations listed in this chart are broad characterizations for comparison purposes and are not precise quotations from legislative language.


The ABA acknowledges Thomson Reuters Westlaw for providing access to on-line legal research.