

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Cherie Morrison Davis, Advance Care Planning Program Director, at (209) 669-2403 or at [morrison-davis\\_cherie@medicalert.org](mailto:morrison-davis_cherie@medicalert.org).

### "MedicAlert Launches New Advance Directive Service"

August 30, 2000. MedicAlert Foundation, the non-profit provider of medical information services to 4.4 million people worldwide, announced the expansion of its services to include the collection, storage and transmission of advance directives, including living wills, durable power of health care attorney documents, and organ, tissue, and anatomical gifts.

Since 1992, MedicAlert Foundation has provided Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) body-worn identifiers, and storage and transmission of DNR orders during out-of-hospital emergencies. The MedicAlert® emblem is also recognized in nine states as the official DNR identifier.

By contacting the MedicAlert 24-hour Call Center, an individual's advance directive is available when and where needed, regardless of the health-care setting. Additionally, MedicAlert notifies the member's designated health-care provider and health-care agent/proxy of the existence of the member's advance directive, and contacts these individuals during medical episodes.

"An individual's end-of-life preferences are often not available when they are needed," said Cherie Morrison-Davis, MedicAlert Foundation's director of advanced care planning. "Sometimes it's a problem of not knowing where the written directives are kept, and frequently a person's physician and designated decision maker may not even know that they've been named in these instructions. All of this can lead to confusion on the part of the caregivers at the time of need. This new service resolves these problems and takes care of the paperwork, so others can take care of the patient."

MedicAlert Foundation, one of the largest nonprofit organizations in the world, serves 2.7 million members nationwide and another 1.3 million globally. As the nation's leading emergency medical information service, MedicAlert Foundation's mission for over 44 years has been to protect and to save lives. For more information call: 888-904-7630 or visit the Web site at [www.medicalert.org](http://www.medicalert.org)