

## Adult Foster Home Provider Alert

Policy updates, rule clarifications and announcements

**Date:** February 22, 2019  
**To:** APD Adult Foster Home Providers  
**From:** Safety, Oversight and Quality Unit  
**Topic:** **New Oregon POLST form and resources**

### New Oregon POLST forms are now available!



For a full-size image, click [here](#).

#### New 2019 POLST Form

The 2019 [Oregon POLST form](#) became effective on January 2, 2019. The Oregon POLST Coalition asks that all health systems, including adult foster home providers, implement the use of the 2019 form by April 8, 2019.

The 2019 Oregon POLST form has a new look: white and grey informational fields with a pink border. Visit [www.oregonpolst.org](http://www.oregonpolst.org) to view the [summary of changes](#) and the POLST [Guidebook for Health Care Professionals](#).

Educational material for understanding POLST and determining when its use is and is not appropriate is available online in the Oregon POLST Professional Resource Library. Resources include lay brochures and presentations for specific audiences such as lay, hospice, and nursing facilities.

**All completed earlier versions of Oregon POLST forms remain valid**, and existing POLST orders remain in the Oregon POLST Registry until changed

APD means Aging and People with Disabilities. APD adult foster homes are licensed to care for adults who are older and adults with physical disabilities. POLST means Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment, also known as Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment.

or voided. A resident does not need the new version of the form unless a change is wanted after discussion with a health care professional. If a change is wanted after such a discussion, use the 2019 version of the Oregon POLST form.

### **Residents are not required to have a completed POLST form.**

In Oregon, POLST forms are **not** required for APD adult foster home residents and should not be completed as a part of routine admission or discharge procedures. POLST is only appropriate for residents who are seriously ill or frail and is not a substitute for a DNR order. Neither federal nor state law requires that residents be offered, or must complete, a POLST. A POLST form does not replace an Advance Directive or the requirement that a resident's record must include documentation that the licensee has informed all residents of the right to formulate an Advance Directive. See [OAR 411-050-0645\(8\)\(a\)\(C\)](#).

A licensee must ask for copies of Guardianship, Conservatorship, Advance Directive for Health Care, and POLST documents, if a resident already has them, before a resident's admission, and should maintain the resident's medical and legal information in the resident's file. OAR 411-050-0645(8)(a)(E)(v); 411-050-0655(2)(c).

Neither the Safety, Oversight, and Quality Unit nor any local licensing authority considers the number of adult foster home residents with (or without) a completed POLST form to be a quality metric and does not issue citations related to use or non-use of POLST by residents.

Residents' rights require that each resident has the right to be free of discrimination in regard to the execution of an Advance Directive, Physician's Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST), or Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders. OAR 411-050-0655(9)(a)(T).

### **Reminders from the Oregon POLST Coalition:**

- **POLST Forms are always voluntary.**
  - POLST forms should **never** be mandatory or a pre-condition to admission for any APD-licensed adult foster home.
  - Residents should **never** be given blank POLST forms to complete.
- **Not everyone needs a POLST.** POLST forms are intended for, and should be offered to, residents who have a serious advanced illness or

frailty where accurate predictions cannot be made but death is likely in the foreseeable future and the resident may not want all treatment.

- Licensees may have policies that residents be **offered** the opportunity to have a POLST conversation.
- POLST is not appropriate for healthy individuals who would want everything done in an emergency. Healthier patients should be encouraged to complete an Advance Directive. See [key differences between Advance Directives and POLST](#); OAR 411-050-0602(5).
- **POLST should be the result of a conversation.** A POLST form should never be completed without a conversation with the resident and/or surrogate.
  - Completion of a POLST form requires an attestation by the signer (M.D./D.O./N.P./P.A./N.D.) that a conversation occurred with the resident and/or surrogate.
  - Only health care professionals complete and sign a POLST form, and the form should be completed *after* having a conversation with the resident (or his/her representative) about the resident's diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment options and listening to the resident's goals of care and wishes about treatment.
  - It is the legal responsibility of the signer, not the preparer, to confirm that POLST orders reflect the patient's wishes in their current state of health and to assure that a copy of the form is submitted to the [Oregon POLST Registry](#).

For general information about the DHS Office of Safety, Oversight and Quality, visit the DHS Web site at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/). If you have questions about this alert, please contact the Adult Foster Home program at: [APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:APD.AFHTeam@dhsosha.state.or.us) or visit <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCBS/Pages/APD.aspx>.