

NAPN POLICY STATEMENT ON DETERMINATION OF DEATH

WHEREAS the National Association of Pro-life Nurses is a not-for-profit organization uniting nurses who seek excellence in healthcare for our patients and families-especially for the most vulnerable- by advocacy, education and upholding the highest ethical standards.

WHEREAS biological death is determined by the irreversible stopping of breathing and heartbeat.

WHEREAS the 1981 Uniform Determination of Death Act defines death as: *An individual who has sustained either irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions or irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brainstem, is dead. A determination of death must be made in accordance with accepted medical standards.*

BE IT RESOLVED that People have a right to not have a concept of death that experts vigorously debate imposed upon them against their judgment and conscience; any revision of the UDDA should therefore contain an opt-out clause for those who accept only a circulatory-respiratory criterion.

Confirmed by BOD November 18, 2025