

1 AN ACT relating to family caregivers.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *As used in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act:*

6 *(1) "After-care" means assistance with self-care tasks to be provided by a lay*  
7 *caregiver to a patient in the patient's residence after the patient's discharge from*  
8 *a hospital and may include but is not limited to:*

9 *(a) Assisting with basic or instrumental activities of daily living; and*

10 *(b) Carrying out self-care tasks such as managing wound care, assisting in the*  
11 *administration of medications, and utilizing home medical supplies;*

12 *(2) "Discharge" means a patient's exit or release from a hospital to the patient's*  
13 *residence following an inpatient stay;*

14 *(3) "Hospital" means a health facility as defined in KRS 216B.015 that provides*  
15 *inpatient care;*

16 *(4) (a) "Lay caregiver" means a nonmedical individual, eighteen (18) years of age*  
17 *or older, who takes care of a patient and is designed as a lay caregiver by*  
18 *that patient to provide after-care assistance to the patient living in his or her*  
19 *residence; and*

20 *(b) A lay caregiver includes but is not limited to a relative, partner, friend, or*  
21 *neighbor who has a significant relationship with the patient; and*

22 *(5) "Residence" means a dwelling that the patient considers to be his or her home. A*  
23 *"residence" does not include any health facility licensed or certified by the*  
24 *Commonwealth.*

25 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
26 READ AS FOLLOWS:

27 *(1) A hospital shall provide each patient or, if applicable, the patient's legal guardian*

- 1 with at least one (1) opportunity to designate one (1) lay caregiver following the  
2 patient's admission into a hospital and prior to the patient's discharge.
- 3 (2) If the patient is unconscious or otherwise incapacitated upon admission into a  
4 hospital, the hospital shall provide the patient or the patient's legal guardian with  
5 an opportunity to designate a lay caregiver when the patient recovers his or her  
6 consciousness or capacity, so long as the designation or lack of a designation  
7 does not interfere with, delay, or otherwise affect the medical care provided to the  
8 patient.
- 9 (3) If the patient or the patient's legal guardian declines to designate a lay caregiver,  
10 the hospital shall document this election in the patient's medical record and the  
11 hospital shall be deemed to comply with Sections 1 to 6 of this Act.
- 12 (4) If the patient or the patient's legal guardian designates an individual as a lay  
13 caregiver under this section, the hospital shall request the written consent of the  
14 patient or the patient's legal guardian to release medical information to the  
15 patient's designated lay caregiver following the hospital's established procedures  
16 for releasing personal health information and in compliance with all federal and  
17 state laws.
- 18 (5) If the patient or the patient's legal guardian declines to consent to release  
19 medical information to the patient's designated lay caregiver, the hospital shall  
20 not be required to provide notice to the caregiver under Section 3 of this Act or  
21 provide information contained in the patient's discharge plan under Section 4 of  
22 this Act.
- 23 (6) The hospital shall record the patient's designation of lay caregiver, the  
24 relationship of the designated caregiver to the patient, and the name, telephone  
25 number, and address of the patient's designated lay caregiver in the patient's  
26 medical record.
- 27 (7) A patient may elect to change his or her designated lay caregiver at any time, and

1 the hospital shall record this change in the patient's medical record as soon as  
2 practicable.

3 (8) A designation of a lay caregiver by a patient or a patient's legal guardian under  
4 this section shall not obligate any individual to perform any after-care tasks for  
5 any patient.

6 (9) This section shall not be construed to require a patient or a patient's legal  
7 guardian to designate any individual as a lay caregiver.

8 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
9 READ AS FOLLOWS:

10 If a patient or a patient's legal guardian has designated a lay caregiver, the hospital  
11 shall notify the patient's designated lay caregiver of the patient's discharge as soon as  
12 practicable. If the hospital is unable to contact the designated lay caregiver, the lack of  
13 contact shall not interfere with, delay, or otherwise affect the medical care provided to  
14 the patient, or an appropriate discharge of the patient.

15 ➔SECTION 4. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
16 READ AS FOLLOWS:

17 (1) As soon as practicable a hospital shall consult with a designated lay caregiver  
18 regarding the patient's after-care needs. If the hospital is unable to contact the  
19 designated lay caregiver, the lack of contact shall not interfere with, delay, or  
20 otherwise affect an appropriate discharge of the patient.

21 (2) A discharge plan shall include:

22 (a) The name and contact information of the designated lay caregiver;

23 (b) A description of after-care tasks the patient may perform at the patient's  
24 residence; and

25 (c) Contact information for health care, community, and long-term care  
26 resources and supports that may be available and appropriate to assist in  
27 implementing the patient's discharge plan.

1 (3) The purpose of the hospital's consultation with a patient's lay caregiver as  
2 described in this section is to assist the lay caregiver in preparing for the patient's  
3 after-care needs, which may include demonstrations of after-care tasks and an  
4 opportunity to ask questions. The date and time of the consultation shall be  
5 documented in the patient's medical record.

6 (4) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services may promulgate administrative  
7 regulations it deems necessary to implement Sections 1 to 6 of this Act.

8 ➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
9 READ AS FOLLOWS:

10 Nothing in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act shall be construed to interfere with the rights of  
11 an agent operating under a valid health care directive pursuant to KRS Chapter 311.

12 ➔SECTION 6. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 216B IS CREATED TO  
13 READ AS FOLLOWS:

14 Nothing in Sections 1 to 6 of this Act shall be construed to create a private right of  
15 action or be construed as establishing a standard of care, with respect to a claim that a  
16 hospital has failed to comply with Sections 1 to 6 of this Act either in whole or in part.