

HEALTH COMMISSION

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 26-90

MEMORIALIZING AND SUPPORTING

THE CURRENT POLICY OF BOTH SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC & PRIVATE HOSPITALS TO ALLOW VISITS FROM PERSONS WITH SIGNIFICANT BUT NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED RELATIONSHIPS TO PATIENTS, SUCH AS DOMESTIC PARTNERS, & TO THE CHILDREN & OTHER RELATIVES OF SUCH PERSONS, ON THE BASIS THAT THEY ALLOW VISITS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS & DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO ENCOURAGE ALL HOSPITALS TO EMBODY THIS POLICY IN WRITING IF THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO & TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF A DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE.

WHEREAS, San Franciscans who require hospitalization are involved in significant relationships that are not based on marriage or other family relationship and are not legally recognized, such as domestic partners; and

WHEREAS, patients will wish to be visited by all persons who have a significant relationship with them, whether or not that relationship is legally recognized; and

WHEREAS, visits from caring friends and family members are conducive to a patient's recovery and well-being; and

WHEREAS, a survey of public and private hospitals in San Francisco shows that all San Francisco hospitals, both public and private, allow visits from persons with significant but not legally recognized relationships to patients, such as domestic partners, and to the children and other relatives of such persons, on the same basis that they allow visits from family members; and

WHEREAS, persons have a right under State law to execute a durable power of attorney for health care in which the person designates another to make health care decisions in the event he or she becomes incompetent; and

WHEREAS, the execution of a durable power of attorney is one means of allowing patients to give their domestic partners certain legal rights in the event of the patient's incompetence; and

WHEREAS, many persons are unaware of their right to appoint another to make health care decisions for them under a durable power of attorney in the event of their incompetence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the current policy of both San Francisco public and private hospitals to allow visits from persons with significant but not legally recognized relationships to patients, such as domestic partners, and to the children and other relatives of such persons, on the same basis that they allow visits from family members is hereby memorialized and supported by the Health Commission; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission directs the Director of Health to encourage all hospitals to embody this policy in writing if they have not done so; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of Health is hereby directed to have prepared or made available for informational purposes to the public, for use at both public and private hospitals, a brochure or other materials describing the right of persons to execute a durable power of attorney and to take any other steps that the Director deems appropriate to disseminate this information to the public.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously by the Health Commission at its meeting of June 19, 1990.



Sandy Ouye Mori
Secretary to the Health Commission