



DANIELLE'S LAW

New Jersey's Danielle's law (N.J.S.A 30:6D-5.3) requires caregivers to immediately call 911 for emergencies for individuals with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injury that may be life threatening. In addition, Comfort Keepers policy requires caregivers to immediately call 911 for emergencies that may be life threatening to any client. Be sure to report the nature of the emergency, name, address and telephone number of the client.

Life threatening emergencies are those situations when immediate intervention is necessary to protect a person's life or if serious impairment or dysfunction of a person's body functions or organs/parts may occur.

Examples of life threatening emergencies include, but are not limited to:

- Unconsciousness
- Persistent chest pain or discomfort
- Not breathing or trouble breathing
- Severe bleeding
- Severe, persistent abdominal pain
- Stroke symptoms
- Serious head injury
- Shock
- Some seizures

Danielle's law interprets "life-threatening emergency" not to include issues that arise related to the terminal condition of an individual at the end of life receiving hospice or palliative care.

- Caregivers do not need to call 911 for an individual receiving end-of-life care when issues arise related to the medical condition; a violation of Danielle's Law will not have occurred.
- Individuals at the end of life should be permitted to have their and their guardians' decisions regarding medical treatment followed.
- Appropriate medical care must always be provided.
- Caregivers must call 911 if a "life-threatening emergency" does occur.
 - A. An event not related to the end-of-life condition – for example, an injury leading to excessive bleeding.
 - B. If the individual has a Practitioner Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) or Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order, this should be provided to emergency personnel.