

Advance Directive for Mental Health Care

Planning for Mental Health Care In the Event of Loss of Decision-Making Ability

What is an advanced directive/or mental health care?

An advance directive for mental health care, also known as a durable power of attorney for mental health care, is a document in which you appoint another individual to make mental health decisions for you in the future, should you lose the ability to make decisions for yourself.

Must I have an advance directive for mental health care?

No. The decision to have any type of advance directive is completely voluntary. No family member, hospital or insurance company can force you to have one, or dictate what the document should say, if you decide to write one.

A hospital cannot deny you service because you have an advance directive or because you don't have one.

What are the advantages of having an advance directive for mental health care?

If you have had experience with the mental health system, you may like some doctors, hospitals and medications. You may also have had bad experiences you wish to avoid repeating.

In your advance directive, you can express your specific wishes, hereby increasing the chances your wishes will be honored.

You can also avoid a commitment hearing at probate court in some circumstances.

Is an advanced directive for mental health care legally binding?

Yes.

Who is eligible to have an advance directive for mental health care?

You must be at least 18 years old. You must understand you are giving another person power to make certain decisions for you should you become unable to give informed consent.

If you have had a guardian appointed under the Estates and Protected Individuals Code, you cannot then sign an advance directive.

What is the person to whom I give decision-making power called?

That person is known as your *patient advocate*.

When can the patient advocate act on my behalf?

Your patient advocate can only make decisions for you if you cannot give informed consent to mental health treatment.

As difficult as it is to confront these issues, by doing so we can help ensure our wishes are honored in the future. Once you determine your wishes, the process of planning is relatively simple and inexpensive or free.

You may ask your healthcare team providers to provide you a pamphlet that contains more information on advance directive to assist you.

Reference: www.michigan.gov

Advance Directive

Planning for Medical Care In the Event of Loss of Decision-Making Ability

What Is an advance directive?

An advance directive is a written document in which you specify what type of medical care you want in the future, or who you want to make decisions for you, should you lose the ability to make decisions for yourself.

Why Is there a need for advance directives?

Years ago, most individuals died in their own homes. Today, there is greater chance of dying in a hospital or nursing home.

Expanding technology has increased the treatment choices we face, and improved public health has increased life expectancy; Decisions may have to be made concerning our care at a time we can no longer communicate our wishes.

What are the advantages of having an advance directive?

We each have our own values, wishes and goals. Having an advance directive provides you some assurance your personal wishes concerning medical and mental treatment will be honored at a time when you are not able to express them. Having an advance directive may also prevent the need for a guardianship imposed through the probate court.

Must I have an advance directive?

No. The decision to have an advance directive is purely voluntary. No family member, hospital or insurance company can force you to have one, or dictate what the document should say if you decide to write one. A hospital or nursing home or hospice organization cannot deny you service because you do or don't have an advance directive.

Are there different types of advance directives?

Yes. Three types are: a durable power of attorney for health care, a living will, and a do-not-resuscitate declaration. There is also a declaration of anatomical gift, to take effect when you die.

Can I have more than one type of advance directive?

Yes. You may choose to have any number of advance directives, or to have none at all.

As difficult as it is to confront these issues, by doing so we can help ensure our wishes are honored in the future. Once you determine your wishes, the process of planning is, relatively simple and inexpensive or free.

You may ask your healthcare team providers to provide you a pamphlet that contains more information on advance directive to assist you.