

Advantages to Advance Directives

Shorter crisis period:

- ◇ Receiving the services that meet your own desires and needs
- ◇ Tailoring services specific to your unique situation — reflecting what has worked in the past
- ◇ Obtaining better medical and mental health treatment
- ◇ Involving Caregivers who will follow your Advance Directive instructions

Faster healing, faster recovery, clear communication:

- ◇ The needed supports from caregivers and the necessary facility are already in place
- ◇ Protect individuals from ineffective, unwanted treatment
- ◇ Effective medications are already established
- ◇ Avoid probate court and involuntary commitment
- ◇ Write in your Advance Directive the procedures you would like to use for voluntary commitment

If you have questions about Advance Directives or would like copies of forms you can use, please call



Customer Services at SWMBH

1-800-890-3712

711 MRC (for hearing impaired)

If you have access to the internet, you can discover information and download forms by visiting these sites:

- ◇ **For Medical Advance Directives:**
Planning for medical care in the event you lose the ability to make your own decisions
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/miseniors/Advance_Directives_230752_7.pdf
- ◇ **For Psychiatric Advance Directives:**
Planning for behavioral health services in the event you lose the ability to make your own decisions
http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_4868_41752---,00.html

If you have legal questions about Advance Directives you can call:

- ◇ Michigan Lawyer Referral Source
1-800-968-0738
- ◇ Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services
1-800-288-5923



What You Should Know About Advance Directives



Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SWMBH) represents:

- ◇ Barry County Community Mental Health Authority
- ◇ Berrien County Community Mental Health Authority
- ◇ Pines Behavioral Health (Branch County)
- ◇ Summit Pointe (Calhoun County)
- ◇ Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare (Cass County)
- ◇ Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- ◇ Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services of St. Joseph County
- ◇ Van Buren Community Mental Health

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What is an Advance Directive?

An Advance Directive is a legal document that lets you say what medical or psychiatric treatment you want or do not want if you lose the ability to speak for yourself.

Who can make an Advance Directive?

Anyone who is 18 years or older who is of “sound mind” and does not already have a legal guardian.

Michigan Law recognizes two (2) types of Advance Directives:

(1) Medical Advance Directive

Lets you share your wishes for medical care. You can make decisions about what you do want and what you do not want for medical treatment. With a medical Advance Directive, you are setting up a Medical Durable Power of Attorney and appoint someone to carry out the treatment you need when you lose the ability to speak for yourself. The types of decisions they can make are for hospital care, medications, Do Not Resuscitate Orders, or donating organs or tissues.

(2) Psychiatric Advance Directive

Lets you appoint another individual to make mental healthcare decisions for you in the future, should you lose your ability to make decisions for yourself. To put a psychiatric Advance Directive in place, you choose someone to act according to your wishes. This individual maintains an electronic copy of your medical record including: treatment history, medical disorders, emergency contact information, and medication side effects.

Do I have to have an Advance Directive?

No. No one can make you create an Advance Directive. And, no one can tell you what your Advance Directive needs to say. You cannot be denied medical or psychiatric care if you don't have an Advance Directive in place. If you have a guardian in place from the Probate Court, you cannot enter into an Advance Directive arrangement.

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

That person is known as your *Patient Advocate*.

When does my Patient Advocate act on my behalf?

Your advocate can only make decisions for you when you are unable to participate in medical decisions independently and understand the positive and negative facts about your treatment options.

When might I become unable to participate in medical or mental health decisions?

You become unable to participate in medical and mental health decisions if you have a condition or situation in which you lose the ability to communicate. For example: as a result of a stroke, an accident that leaves you unconscious, or if you have dementia. For purposes of psychiatric advance directives, your symptoms may be so severe that you cannot give informed consent about your treatment options.

Who determines that I cannot participate in my medical or mental health care decisions?

For medical care, the doctor treating you and one other doctor or psychologist will make the determination that you cannot participate in making medical decisions. For psychiatric care, a doctor and a mental health professional must each determine that you are unable to provide informed consent for your treatment.

What does my Patient Advocate need to do before acting on my behalf?

Your Advocate must sign an Acceptance form. S/he can do this when you create the Advance Directive or at a later time. Michigan Law has general language that each acceptance form needs to have.

Who should you give copies of your Advance Directive(s) to?

- ◇ Patient Advocate
 - ◇ Mental Health Professionals (Case Manager/Therapist)
 - ◇ Psychiatrist
 - ◇ Family Doctor(s)
 - ◇ Hospital(s)
 - ◇ Family
 - ◇ Significant Other/Spouse
 - ◇ Friends
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