

**Is there any cost to me for any of this?**

No. There is no cost for making an Advance Directive or for assigning a Health Care Agent.

**Do I need an attorney or do I have to go to court?**

No. Legal court proceedings are not required.

**Does the Advance Directive have to be notarized?**

No. The State of Michigan does not require the use of a notary. However, you must have two adult witnesses sign your Advance Directive. Witnesses cannot be family members, health care team members or beneficiaries of your estate.

**Once created, can I change my mind?**

Yes, you may change or end your Advance Directive or change your Health Care Agent at any time that you are considered capable.

**My Health Care Agent is:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My document is located at:

\_\_\_\_\_

My primary care physician is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there a form I can fill out?**

You can complete the form that is available through your treatment team. Or you can write out your own document; search for a form on the Internet or purchase a form at an office supply store.

**What should I do with an Advance Directive after it is signed?**

Place the original document in your personal file and give copies to other trusted individuals, such as your Health Care Agent, medical doctor or primary mental health professional.

**Where can I get more information or help with an Advance Directive?**

You can obtain information from the Michigan Department of Community Health's website:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>

Or you can obtain information and help from:

Detroit-Wayne County  
Community Mental Health Agency  
Division of Customer Service  
Voice: 313-833-2500  
TDD: 313-833-2417

The information in this pamphlet is presented as a public service for educational purposes only. It is not a substitute for discussions with your doctor, case manager, family member or anyone else you normally talk with to make decisions about your medical or mental health care.

**Contact Information**

**Detroit-Wayne County**

Community Mental Health Agency  
640 Temple  
Detroit, MI 48201

**General Office**

313-833-2500

**Customer Service**

Phone: 888-490-9698  
Fax: 313-833-2217  
Fax: 313-833-4280  
TDD Line: 800-630-1044

**Grievance and Appeals**

888-490-9698  
Fax: 313-833-4280

**Family Support Subsidy**

313-833-2493  
Fax: 313-833-4150

**24-Hour Crisis/Information & Referral Line:**

800-241-4949 or  
313-224-7000  
TDD: 866-870-2599



**ADVANCE DIRECTIVES FOR MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE CHOICES**

**Detroit-Wayne County  
Community Mental Health Agency**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is an Advance Directive?

An Advance Directive is a legal document for healthcare decisions. You create an Advance Directive when you are capable and competent. The purpose of the document is to allow you to give instructions for your future physical health, mental health and other medical treatment. It also gives you an opportunity to appoint an Agent to make future health care decisions for you. The document is used when you are unable to understand your medical or psychiatric illness and become unable to make or communicate decisions about treatment.

There are several types of Advance Directives you can consider:

- A. Appointment of Health Care Agent
- B. Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Choices (medical/mental health)
- C. Living Will for end of life decision making
- D. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order

### Do I have to fill out an Advance Directive?

No. The decision to have any type of Advance Directive is completely voluntary. No family member, hospital or insurance company can require you to have one, or dictate what the document should say if you decide to write one. Also, a hospital cannot deny you service because you have an Advance Directive or because you don't have one.

### What does an Advance Directive allow me to do?

An Advance Directive generally permits you to plan for, consent to or refuse future treatment, at a time that you are not able to communicate your wishes with the treatment team. You can plan for such things as hospital admission, administration of medication, post hospital care, Electroconvulsive Treatment (ECT), etc.

### If I am unable to make decisions, can I choose someone to speak for me?

Yes. This is done through the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care portion of the Advance Directive. The person who is appointed is called a Health Care Agent, Surrogate Decision Maker or Patient Advocate.

### Who can I appoint to be my Health Care Agent?

The person you appoint must be a capable and competent adult who is 18 years or older. The person cannot be providing your health care.

You may set up an Advance Directive without appointing a Health Care Agent. If you do appoint a Health Care Agent, it should be someone you trust. You can appoint more than one Health Care Agent. However, only one can serve as your Health Care Agent at a specific time.

### When would my Health Care Agent make decisions for me?

When your health care provider determines that you are incapable of making decisions, your Health Care Agent would be consulted about your treatment choices and decision making.

### When would I be considered to be "incapable to participate in my care decisions"?

Generally, incapacity means that at a particular time, you lack sufficient understanding or ability to make and communicate medical or mental health treatment decisions. A physician or psychologist determines incapacity.

### What is the treatment team to do with my Advance Directive?

If you are determined to lack capacity to make your own decisions about medical or psychiatric treatment, your health care providers must make an effort to follow the instructions that are written in your Advance Directive or that are given by your Health Care Agent. Your health care provider may also notify all other providers involved in your care of the instructions in your Advance Directive.

### Are there conditions when my Advance Directive would not be followed?

Yes. Your Advance Directive would not be followed under conditions such as:

- Conflicts with generally accepted medical and mental health care practice standards
- Treatment requests are not feasible or available
- Conflicts with emergency treatment
- Conflicts with applicable law

### Will my Advance Directive be followed if I am involuntarily committed to a facility?

Involuntary commitment to a treatment facility takes priority over

what your Advance Directive says about hospitalization. However, your preferences regarding medication and other aspects of treatment while hospitalized will be considered if you are involuntarily committed.

### Does a mental health professional have to pre-approve any of the content of my Advance Directive?

No, but you are encouraged to consult with a medical and/or mental health care professional when you are completing an Advance Directive.

### What if I already have a guardian?

Check the responsibilities assigned to your guardian. Usually your guardian is your Health Care Agent. In any case, you should discuss your medical and/or mental health care treatment preferences with your guardian if you have not done so.

### After you have completed an Advance Directive, you may cut out this card and place it in your wallet.

#### ATTENTION HEALTH CARE WORKERS

I have a Health Care Agent

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Patient Advocate is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_