

# IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE GOOD FOR ME?

*Anyone who is receiving health care  
services could use an advance  
directive. Be assured that your  
wishes will be carried out in case of  
a health care emergency. Feel better  
with a plan in place.*

For more information about advance  
directives or our services in general, please  
call The Right Door for Hope, Recovery  
and Wellness at  
616-527-1790.

## The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness locations:

Formerly known as Ionia County Community Mental Health

**Ionia Office**  
375 Apple Tree Drive  
Ionia, MI 48846  
616.527.1790

**Belding Office**  
7441 Storey Road  
Belding, MI 48809  
616.794.6592

**Portland Office**  
208 W. Bridge Street  
Portland, MI 48875  
517.647.2128

**[www.rightdoor.org](http://www.rightdoor.org)**

**24 Hour Toll Free  
Crisis Line:  
1.888.527.1790**



**MSHN**  
Mid-State Health Network

**THE right DOOR**  
for hope, recovery and wellness

## Advance Directives



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Services.*

# What is an advance directive?

In Michigan, if you are 18 years of age and do not have a guardian, you may make an advance directive and choose someone to be your patient advocate. A patient advocate can make health care decisions for you when you are not able to make them for yourself. The advance directive must be in writing and tells your patient advocate and your health care providers what kind of care you want or don't want if you cannot speak for yourself.

## Why would I want an advance directive?

Some day you may not be able to speak for yourself. With an advance directive you know that you will receive the care that you want. If you don't have an advance directive, the court may need to appoint a guardian. The guardian would then make your health care choices.

## Do I have to have an advance directive?

No. No one can force you to have an advance directive. No one can tell you what to put into an advance directive. You can not be denied care because of your choice about advance directives. You have the right to accept or refuse medical, surgical or mental health care.

## What is a patient advocate?

A patient advocate is someone you appoint (when you are healthy) to make decisions about your health care when you are not able to make those decisions for yourself. You choose who your patient advocate is. You can tell your patient advocate about the choices you want them to make for you.

## What does the right to waive revocation for mental health care mean?

Michigan law says that you may choose to waive your right to revoke the appointment of your patient advocate. If you waive this right in writing, as part of your advance directives, your revocation will go into effect 30 days after you make the decision.

## When should I review my advance directive?

Health care and your health may change. You should review your advance directives at least once a year and make changes as necessary. Be sure to give copies to your patient advocate and your health care providers each time that your advance directives are changed. A copy of your advance directive will be kept in your clinical record.

## Are there other kinds of advance directives?

There are 3 types of advance directives. Each is different. It helps if you understand the 3 types.

Durable power of attorney for health care or proxy are both the same as a patient advocate. Michigan law allows you to appoint a durable power of attorney for health care.

A Living Will tells health care providers about your health care choices if you are not able to tell them yourself. Living Wills are not binding in Michigan. Michigan Courts may look at a living will but the courts do not have to follow what it says.

A Do-Not-Resuscitate Order says that you do not want help if you stop breathing or your heart stops working. This can also be called a DNR or DNRO. You may write a DNR if you are 18 years or older and competent. You should tell your health care providers and your family that you have written a DNR. You must give your health care providers a copy of your DNR. You may also wear a bracelet that says that you have a DNR. Michigan law allows your DNR to be followed.

## How do I write my advance directives and what do I do with them?

You do not have to use a special form to write your advance directives. If you would like to use a form, ask your customer service representative for copies of the forms. You may pick the one that works best for you. Make sure that you type or print clearly. Give a copy to your patient advocate and to all of your health care providers.

## Who decides when I am no longer able to speak for myself and that my patient advocate will be called?

If you are receiving medical care, your doctor and a second doctor will decide when you are not able to make health care decisions for yourself and make sure that your patient advocate is called. If you are receiving mental health care, your doctor and a mental health professional (another doctor, a psychologist, a registered nurse or a social worker) will decide and have your patient advocate called.

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A patient advocate should be an adult that you trust and who knows you well. This person can be your spouse, a family member or a friend or anyone else that you choose. You should talk to that person to see if he/she is willing to be your patient advocate. Your patient advocate must sign a paper that says they agree. You must also have two other people, "witnesses", present who also sign the paper.

