

Glossary of Terms

Mental Health Advance Directives

Attending physician. A physician who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the person making the advance directive.

Agent. An individual named by a person in a mental health care power of attorney who will make mental health care decisions on behalf of the person.

Amend. To change or modify by adding or subtracting language.

Declaration. A writing which expresses a person's wishes and instructions for mental health care or other subjects.

Execute. To sign, date, and have the signature witnessed.

Mental health advanced directive. A document that allows a person to make choices regarding mental health treatment known in the event that the person is incapacitated by his/her mental illness. In effect, the person is giving or withholding consent to treatment before treatment is needed.

Mental health care. Any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose, treat, or provide for mental health, including any medication program and therapeutic treatment.

Mental health care provider. A person who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by the laws of Pennsylvania to provide mental health care.

Mental health treatment professional. A person trained and licensed in psychiatry, social work, psychology, or nursing who has a graduate degree and clinical experience.

Power of attorney. A writing made by a person naming someone else to make mental health care decisions on behalf of the person.

Revoke. To cancel or end.