

HOW DO I MAKE AN  
ADVANCE  
DIRECTIVE?

This brochure is not a substitute for legal advice. You should consult with a lawyer for specific legal advice about Advance Directives.

You may contact Ohio Legal Right or your local bar association or the Ohio State Bar Association to find a lawyer in your area.

OHIO LEGAL RIGHTS

1-614-466-7264

1-800-282-9181

OHIO BAR ASSOCIATION

1-614-221-0754

Or

1-866-LAWOHIO

(Legal Aid Services)



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Gallipolis, OH 45631

(740) 446-5500

Or

1-800-252-5554

ADVANCE  
DIRECTIVES

A Brief Guide  
For Consumers About  
Advance Directives

WOODLAND CENTERS,  
INC.

## WHAT IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

An Advance Directive is a legal document that empowers consumers with the ability to plan their own mental health care in the event they lose the capacity to effectively make decisions.

It is a durable power of attorney where an agent is named to act on behalf of the consumer.

The Advance Directive gives the agent guidance regarding the consumer's treatment preferences and related issues.

The process of developing an Advance Directive offers the consumer the opportunity to discuss signs and symptoms or triggers for relapse not only to help others recognize these signs, but to gain increased knowledge and control of his or her illness.

**Simply put, an Advance Directive is a statement of rights and preferences so that others know what you want if you lose the capacity to say so.**

### DEFINITIONS

**RIGHT**— To give or refuse informed consent.

**PREFERENCE**—You know your own history. You can specify treatment preferences and other directions. They are not binding.

**AGENT**— Someone you can trust with all aspects of your health care. It can be a relative or a friend.

### HOW DOES AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE WORK?

When you go into the hospital, you keep your rights and preferences. If your doctor decides you can't make informed choices for yourself, your Advance Directive authorizes your agent to make those choices.

Your rights are legally binding. Your preferences are not.

- You have the right to revoke your Advance Directive at any time. Or you can use an expiration date if you prefer.
- When you make an Advance Directive, give copies to your agent and your doctor.
- Make sure your agent's address and phone number are up to date.
- You may have alternate agents.
- Your agent may make decisions for you on your behalf. If you have not otherwise specified, your agent may make the choices he or she believes you would have made.