

**Austin State Hospital**

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**Advance Directive  
Information**



***Partnering to find  
solutions toward  
wellness***

**Client Rights Office  
512-419-2142**

## Advance Directive



### WHAT IS AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

An advance directive tells your doctor what kind of care you would like to have if you become unable to make medical decisions (if you are in a coma, for example).

A good advance directive describes the kind of treatment you would want depending on how sick you are. For example, the directives would describe what kind of care you want if you have an illness that you are unlikely to recover from, or if you are permanently unconscious. Advance directives usually tell your

doctor that you don't want certain kinds of treatment. However, they can also say that you want a certain treatment no matter how ill you are.

Advance directives can take several forms.

### Directive to Physician (Living Will)

It is a written, legal document that describes the kind of medical treatments or life-sustaining treatments you would want if you were seriously or terminally ill. A Directive to Physician does not let you select someone to make decisions for you.

### MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH CARE

A Medical Power of Attorney allows you to appoint someone to make health-care decisions for you when you can not make them for yourself. It becomes active any time you are unconscious or unable to make medical decisions. A medical power of attorney is generally more useful than a living will. However, it may

not be a good choice if you don't have another person you trust to make these decisions for you.

### SHOULD I HAVE AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

Creating an advance directive makes your preferences about medical care known before you're faced with a serious injury or illness. This will spare your loved ones the stress of making decisions about your care while you are sick. Any person 18 years of age or older can prepare an advance directive.

## HOW CAN I WRITE AN ADVANCE DIRECTIVE?

*Choosing to complete an Advance Directive is entirely up to you. You may contact the Client Rights Office at 419-2142 if you would like more information about a directive or if you would like assistance in completing an Advance Directive document.*

## Organ Donation



You have the right to request to be an organ donor. Please contact your Social Worker or the Client Rights Office for assistance in obtaining a donor card.

Whether or not you choose to complete these documents is entirely up to you.



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**4110 Guadalupe  
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