

Act 194, Mental Health Declarations and Powers of Attorney was signed into Pennsylvania law in 2004. Pennsylvania's Advanced Directive is intended to help individuals who have a mental illness plan the services and supports they would want to have should they become unable because of their mental illness, to make those choices known. This brochure will help to explain what Advance Directives are, as well as what individuals and families need to consider should they choose to make a Mental Health Advance Directive.



Recovery Partnership provides a consumer-run community based Peer Services program. We offer P.A.I.R. Peer Mentor services and Certified Peer Specialist services.

Individuals receiving peer support services have the ability to gain knowledge and skills that will aid in their recovery, as well as realize a sense of hope and inspiration with someone they can relate to and identify with. Recovery Partnership believes that recovery is possible and is an individual and unique process. We believe that a community focus is an integral part of recovery where individuals are encouraged to flourish within the community of their choice with access to available supports and resources.

To obtain more information, please call our office at (610) 861-2741 or email RPpeerservices@gmail.com

Mental Health Advance Directive



A Mental Health Advance Directive gives a person the ability to make decisions about things such as who should be notified if a hospitalization occurs, which hospital a person wants to go to, which medications have not been successful in the past, and a person's wishes about ECT. With a Mental Health Advance Directive your family, friends, and doctor will understand a person's wishes.

Recovery Partnership ***Peer Services Program***

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At times,
making
choices can
confusing.

Support is Available

Pennsylvania Law on Mental Health Advance Directives allows a person to control their mental health care 3 ways:

1. Directly - By writing instructions in advance. This is called a Declaration.
2. Indirectly By appointing a Power of Attorney, called the agent, to make those decisions on his/her behalf.
3. Combination—Utilizing both a Declaration and Power of Attorney.

Stay in control

What are the most important points to remember about a Mental Health Advance Directive?

- Anyone who is over 18 years of age or an emancipated minor can complete a Mental Health Advance Directive, unless he/she is currently under an involuntary mental health commitment, or if he/she is determined to be incompetent by the court.
- A person does not have to 'prove' they have capacity.
- A Directive has to be signed, witnessed and dated to be valid.
- A Directive is good for 2 years but is not automatically continued after the 2 years.
- There are 3 different ways a Mental Health Advance Directive can be completed: Declaration; Mental Health Power of Attorney; and Combined Form. Multiple copies of the Advanced Directive should be made and given to health care providers and others who could give it to those who need to have it.



By partnering with experienced peers, individuals living with mental illness receive support to actively engage in their recovery. Certified Peer Specialists are people who have lived with mental illness in their own lives. They serve as role models and advocates for other mental health consumers. They are people who want to help others succeed, offering encouragement and hope along the road to recovery.

Recovery Partnership Advance Directive workshop runs for four consecutive weeks. Classes are facilitated by trained Certified Peer Specialists. Participants will learn about “declaration” and “power of attorney” and complete their own advance directive upon completion of the workshop series.

To find out more information or to sign up for the workshop, please contact:

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