

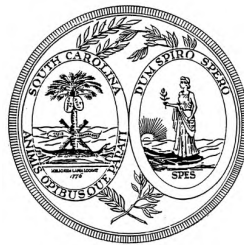
SCDMH wishes to establish within and throughout its organization an environment where the process of recovery can be experienced by people who have mental illnesses by the setting of agency-wide goals that create, support and maintain the following principles/values:

1. Recovery happens when people take responsibility for their mental health and begin to direct the course of their lives.
2. All people have strengths and talents that they can use to establish a life in recovery.
3. People in recovery and services providers must focus on health holistically, being aware of mind, body, spirit and environment.
4. Meaningful work, safe housing and pleasurable leisure are necessary components of recovery.
5. People with mental illnesses must be given choices about all aspects of their lives, and they must be supported in these choices even when there is a likelihood of failure.
6. People in recovery need valuable roles in the community.
7. People in recovery may still experience symptoms.
8. Having adequate finances to meet basic needs is vital to recovery.
9. People recover in partnership with family, friends and professional mental health workers and in communities where public and private service providers and advocacy groups work in partnership to provide support.
10. Hope is a vital component of recovery.

“Recovery is a process by which a person overcomes the challenges presented by a mental illness to live a life of meaning and purpose.”

For More Information Go to

<https://scdmh.net/49-2/patient-advocacy-2/>



Psychiatric Advanced Directives; My Declaration for Mental Health Treatment

What is A Declaration of Mental Health Treatment?

A Declaration for Mental Health Treatment also known as a **Psychiatric Advanced Directive** is a legal Document completed by a individual to that details your instructions and wishes for your mental health treatment in times when you are too ill to make your wishes known.



Why Would I Want to Fill One Out If I'm Not Sick?

It can help to improve communication between you and your doctor, you and other staff and you and your family members involved in your recovery.

Having a psychiatric advance directive may even shorten a hospital stay or help you avoid one all together.

How was this Developed?

The Declaration for Mental Health Treatment was created by clients of mental health services in South Carolina for people who receive services from centers and hospitals affiliated with the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. The document should, however, be respected by private

providers inside and outside of the state of South Carolina. The combined wisdom of the clients and staff who participated in developing this document represents more than 750 years of recovery experience.

What Do I Do After I Fill It Out?

You should have several copies of your Declaration made. One can be placed in you're mental health chart, keep one so that you or agent can present it on your behalf if you have to go to the hospital.

What is an Agent?

An agent is a friend, family member or someone else you trust who makes sure the hospital has a copy of my Declaration for Mental Health Treatment if you did not take one with you. The agent can also help to make decisions about your treatment if it is not covered in the Declaration for Mental Health Treatment or if some part of the Declaration for Mental Health Treatment cannot be followed for good **reasons**.



Five Things Important Points

1. S.C. does not recognize Statements of Desires without appointment of an agent/surrogate under a Health Care Power of Attorney. Forms for a Health Care Power of Attorney can be found at: <https://scdmh.net/49-2/patient-advocacy-2/>
2. Your case manager or other mental health worker cannot be your agent.
3. It is important that you understand that in an emergency situation, a doctor can do something different from what you have stated in your Declaration for Mental Health Treatment, but the doctor must go through certain steps to do this.
4. It is up to you or your agent to make sure that the hospital has a copy of your Declaration for Mental Health Treatment. You may want to have a copy placed in your outpatient record so that outpatient staff are aware of what hospital or crisis stabilization approaches you would prefer, if you are not able to express your own choices at the time.
5. You can substitute the **Crisis Portion of your WRAP** (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) Plan if you have completed one and so desire. You should attach a copy of your WRAP Crisis Plan to this form.