

Advance Health Directives

Advance directives are legal records. They are used when you are very sick and cannot explain the kind of care you want. They let your family, friends and doctors know about your end-of-life choices ahead of time. You have a right under Michigan law to have and use an advance directive.

There are two main types of advance directives in Michigan:

Living Will

A living will tells how you feel about care that continues your life. This kind of care includes:

- ✓ The use of dialysis and breathing machines
- ✓ Tube feeding
- ✓ Organ or tissue donation
- ✓ If you want to be saved when your breathing or heartbeat stops

You can either receive or say no to any of this care. Your living will becomes active **ONLY** when you are not able to make choices on your own.

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care

A durable power of attorney for health care allows you to choose a healthcare agent. A healthcare agent is someone who makes choices about your care when you are not able to.

You may not be able to make your own healthcare choices if you are badly injured or sick. Your healthcare agent can make choices about your care in these cases.

With a durable power of attorney, your agent can:

- ✓ See your medical and personal info
- ✓ Choose and dismiss your doctors
- ✓ Say yes or no to medical care
- ✓ Sign waivers and other documents to allow or stop your medical care

Your agent should be someone you trust, like a family member or a friend. Talk with your agent about your values and wishes. The more your agent knows about you, the better choices he or she can make.

 **Our Policy**

Meridian will respect your choices as listed in your advance directives. We will not limit the use of any of your advance directives because of personal beliefs or conscience.

If you have questions about filling out an advance directive, talk to your doctor, mental health provider, attorney or other professional that handles advance directives. You can also call Meridian at **888-437-0606**. You can get advance directive forms at your doctor's office or local hospital.

If you think that your doctor did not follow your wishes, contact:

Michigan Department of Licensing & Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)
Complaint & Allegation Division
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909-8170
Phone: **517-373-9196**
Email: **bhpinfo@michigan.gov**

If you think that your hospital or other healthcare center did not follow your wishes, contact:

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Health Systems
P.O. Box 30664
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: **517-334-8408**
Email: **BHCS-HF@michigan.gov**

You can also visit the BHP website **www.michigan.gov/healthlicense**. Click on "How to file a complaint."

If you think Meridian did not follow your wishes, please contact:

Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS)
Office of General Counsel/PRIRA
P.O. Box 30220
Lansing, MI 48909-7720
Phone: **877-999-6442**
Fax: **517-241-4168**
www.michigan.gov/difs