

What is an Advance Directive?

An advance directive is a legal document that shares your wishes for medical care before an emergency happens. If you're ever unable to speak for yourself, it helps your care team understand the kind of care you want and who you trust to make decisions on your behalf.

Keeping a copy on file can bring peace of mind for you and your loved ones. We recommend sharing it with your doctor, keeping a copy at home, and providing one to the person you've chosen to support your care decisions.

Your Voice. Your Choices.

At Riverwood Center, we respect your right to make decisions about your care. An Advance Directive allows you to clearly document your wishes and choose someone you trust to speak on your behalf.

If you need help creating your Advance Directive, our Customer Service team or your Case Manager can walk you through the process and help you access forms.

Reach out to your Riverwood Center care team or call Customer Service at 1-866-729-8716 for support. TTY: Michigan Relay Service 7-1-1.

About Us

Riverwood Center, the service name of Berrien Mental Health Authority, is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), delivering quality mental health services and programs since 1975. Riverwood Center provides a wide variety of caring and confidential services to children, families and adults with mental illnesses, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.



Contact

24/7 Crisis Line: 1-800-336-0341
Direct Phone: 269-925-0585
Customer Service: 1-866-729-8716
Life-threatening Emergency: 911
TTY: MI Relay Service at 7-1-1

Locations & Hours

Benton Harbor (Main Office)
1485 M139, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Main Office Hours:
M-F, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Niles Office
24 N. St. Joseph Ave., Suites A & G
Niles, MI 49120

St. Joseph Office (*Inside Corewell Health)
3900 Hollywood Rd., Ste #245
St. Joseph, MI 49085

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, hay servicios gratuitos de asistencia con el idioma para usted. Llame al 1-800-890-3712 (TTY: 7-1-1)



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RiverwoodCenter.org

3 Ways to Plan Your Care

You have the option to choose between 3 types of Advance Directives to help you:

Medical Advance Directive

A Medical Advance Directive is a document where you choose someone you trust to make medical decisions for you if you cannot speak for yourself. This person is called your patient advocate. They can help make choices about your care, like hospital treatment, medications, or organ donation. This document is also known as a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.

Psychiatric Advance Directive

A Psychiatric Advance Directive is a document that lets you choose someone to make mental health care decisions for you in the future, if you are not able to make those decisions yourself.

Living Will

A Living Will is a written document that explains the type of medical care you want if you become very sick and cannot speak for yourself. It helps guide your doctors, family, and patient advocate.

A Living Will is different from a Medical Advance Directive because it focuses on your treatment wishes, instead of naming a person to make decisions for you.

While Living Wills are not officially recognized by Michigan law, they can still help share your wishes.

Common Questions and Answers

Who Can Have an Advance Directive?

You can have an Advance Directive if you are 18 years old or older, able to make your own decisions, and do not have a legal guardian.

What is the Difference Between a Medical and Psychiatric Advance Directive?

A Medical Advance Directive is used for medical care, like hospital care or treatment for physical health problems.

A Psychiatric Advance Directive is used for mental health care, like treatment during a mental health crisis.

Both documents help make sure your wishes are known and followed if you cannot make decisions for yourself.

What does my Patient Advocate need to do before they can act for me?

Your Patient Advocate must sign a form that says they agree to make decisions for you. This form must be signed before they can act on your behalf.

When would decisions be made for me?

Your Patient Advocate can only make decisions for you if doctors and mental health professionals decide that you are not able to make decisions or understand your treatment choices.

When might I not be able to make my own decisions?

You become unable to participate in medical or mental health decisions if you have a condition or situation in which you lose the ability to make or communicate decisions. Some examples are:

- A stroke
- An accident that leaves you unconscious
- Dementia
- Mental health symptoms that are so severe that you cannot make informed decisions about your care

Who decides that I can't make my own decisions?

For medical care, your doctor and another doctor or psychologist must agree that you can't make medical decisions. For mental health care, a doctor and another mental health professional must agree that you can't make decisions about your mental health treatment.