



# Advance Directive

Take Charge  
of Your Health

[MHSINDIANA.COM](https://www.mhsindiana.com)

MHS believes you should always be **in charge** of your own health. That means choosing the providers who are best for you. Then, working together to make decisions about your care. You have the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment. You also have the right to an advance directive.



### **What is an Advance Directive?**

An advance directive is a list of rules and decisions about your future medical care and treatment. This helps your family and doctors understand your wishes in case you become too sick to make your own decisions. Indiana law pays special attention to advance directives.

An advance directive lets you choose another person to make health care decisions for you if you are unable to do so. You may also use an advance directive to prevent certain people from making health care decisions on your behalf.

Your advance directives will not take away your right to decide your current health care. As long as you are able to make your own decisions, your advance directive will not be used. This is true even if you are very sick. Your advance directive will only be used if you can no longer make your own choices.

### **Are Advance Directives Required?**

No. No one can make you have an advance directive if you do not want one. Your doctor may encourage you to complete an advance directive. But, this is only so your healthcare team knows and can follow your wishes.

### **What Happens if You Do Not Have an Advance Directive?**

If you can't make your own choices about medical care or treatment, and don't have an advance directive, Indiana law decides who can do this for you. The law lets a member of your immediate family or a person chosen by a court make healthcare choices for you.

### **What Types of Advance Directives are Recognized in Indiana?**

- ▶ Talking directly to your doctors and family
- ▶ Organ and tissue donation
- ▶ Health care representative
- ▶ Living Will Declaration or Life-Prolonging Procedures Declaration
- ▶ Psychiatric advance directives
- ▶ Out of Hospital Do Not Resuscitate Declaration and Order
- ▶ Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST)
- ▶ Power of Attorney

### **How Can I Get Help Writing an Advance Directive?**

A great place to start is the Indiana State Department of Health Advance Directives Resource Center ([in.gov/isdh/25880.htm](http://in.gov/isdh/25880.htm)). This site has lots of helpful information. Plus, links to state forms, Indiana laws and other websites. You can also ask your physician or hospital patient services department. Or, call MHS at 1-877-647-4848 and ask for a Case Manager. You do not need an attorney to write an advance directive. But, you may want to talk with one for extra help.

It is hard to think about being too sick to make your own decisions. An advance directive can give you peace of mind, knowing that your wishes will be followed if that time comes.



## Advance Directives

You have the right to choose the medical care and treatment you receive. Advance directives help make sure you have a say in your future health care and treatment if you become unable to communicate.

With advance directives, you can:

- ▶ Let your doctor know if you would or would not want to use life-support machines
- ▶ Let your family and doctor know if you would like to be an organ donor
- ▶ Give someone else permission to say yes or no to your medical treatments

Even if you do not have a written advance directive, you should talk to your family and physician about your healthcare wishes.

Managed Health Services (MHS) is a health coverage provider that has been proudly serving Indiana residents for more than 25 years through Hoosier Healthwise, the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), and Hoosier Care Connect.

MHS also offers Ambetter from MHS in the Indiana health insurance marketplace, and Wellcare By Allwell, a Medicare Advantage plan. All of our plans include quality, comprehensive coverage with a provider network you can trust.

MHS is your choice for better healthcare.



**1-877-647-4848**  
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Si usted, o alguien a quien está ayudando, tiene preguntas acerca de MHS, tiene derecho a obtener ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo alguno. Para hablar con un intérprete, llame al 1-877-647-4848 (TTY/TDD 1-800-743-3333).

如果您，或是您正在協助的對象，有關於 MHS 方面的問題，您有權利免費以您的母語得到幫助和訊息。如果要與一位翻譯員講話，請撥電話 1-877-647-4848 (TTY/TDD 1-800-743-3333)。