

SHIAWASSEE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Section: Recipient Rights

Policy Number: 22

Subject: **Surrogate Decision Makers Durable
Power of Attorney for Healthcare
Decisions, other Advance Directives**

Effective Date: 7/27/98

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Policy

It is the policy of Shiawassee County Community Mental Health Authority (SCCMHA) that advance directives by clients are documented and communicated to other Healthcare providers so that it is ensured the client's wishes are known.

Purpose

To provide processes which support the consumer's right to establish conditions for directing end-of-life decisions while protecting the consumer's right to necessary care in emergency situations not governed by advance directives.

To safeguard the liability of the organization through the application of standard risk management practices.

Application

This policy applies to all staff.

Definitions

Advance Directive: An advance directive is a written document which specifies medical care desired and an appointed decision maker should the individual lose the ability to make decisions for himself/herself.

Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare: A durable power of attorney for healthcare, also known as a healthcare proxy, is a document which appoints a specific person to make medical treatment and related personal care decisions for an individual.

Living Will: A living will is a written document which informs doctors, family members, and others what type of medical care the individual wishes to receive should the individual become terminally ill or permanently unconscious.

