

## POLICY ON PATIENTS' RIGHTS TO SELF DETERMINATION

1. All competent adult individuals admitted to the Division of Care and Treatment (DCTS) facilities have the right to make their own decisions about their physical health care. The division recognizes the right of individuals to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment for physical ailments.
2. The division also recognizes the right of competent adults to make "advance directives" in physical health care matters. An advance directive is a written document that states the individual's wishes and instructions about their physical health care if he or she later cannot express his or her wishes or is otherwise incapacitated. Advance directives include a "Declaration to Physicians" (Living Will) and a "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care."
3. DCTS facilities will honor all rights of patients under state, federal and case law to make their own decisions about medical care for physical ailments, to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment for such ailments and to formulate advance directives.
4. As part of the admission process, all competent adult patients will be provided written information regarding their rights under state law to make their own physical health care decisions and to complete advance directives.
5. As part of the admission process, all competent adult patients will be asked whether or not they have completed an advance directive. If an individual has an advance directive, it will be obtained and put in their medical record and sent with the patient any time they are admitted to a hospital for medical treatment.
6. No individual will be discriminated against in any way because they either have or have not made out an advance directive.
7. DCTS facilities will ensure that state law regarding advance directives is honored.
8. DCTS will provide education for their staff and clients on issues relating to advance directives. The education may be provided in conjunction with other facilities.