

Advance Directives

Policy:

Social Service will assure that each resident is aware that they can execute an advance directive for their care decisions, should they become unable to make decisions for themselves.

Purpose:

To assure individuals coming to live in the long term care facility understand that they retain power to control their lives and direct their care throughout their lives.

Procedure:

1. Upon admission, Social Service or designated representative will explain to the resident what constitutes an advance directive, their right to execute an advance directive for care decisions, and/or establish a power of attorney for health care in the event they can not make care decisions for themselves. Social Service will also provide the resident with a copy of the facility's policy regarding advance directives.
2. If the resident has not executed an advance directive, and desires to execute one, Social Service will provide information on how to do so.
3. Social Service should request a copy from the resident of any advance directives he / she may already have executed. These will be included in the medical record and honored by the facility when necessary.
4. Social Services will evidence that advance directive information was given to and discussed with the resident through a written acknowledgement.
5. The facility will provide education to the staff and the community regarding advance directives through inservice programs and presentations.
6. The facility will not condition the provision of care or otherwise discriminate against any person based on whether or not the resident has executed an Advance Directive.

NOTE:

An advance directive is defined as a written instruction regarding care and treatment, such as a living will. The document(s) specifies a resident's preference about measures used to sustain life, or a durable power of attorney for health care, recognized under state law relating to the provision of such care when the resident is incapacitated. No facility staff, including social service, can be involved in assisting the resident in executing an advance directive.