



Advanced Directives: An Overview for Oklahomans

Advanced directives are legal documents that provide instructions about a person's healthcare preferences in the event that they become unable to communicate or make decisions for themselves. These directives are crucial for ensuring that individuals' healthcare choices are respected even when they can no longer express them.

Types of Advanced Directives in Oklahoma

- 1. Living Will (Directive to Physicians):**

A living will is a document that expresses an individual's preferences regarding life-sustaining treatments in the event they are terminally ill, permanently unconscious, or in a state where recovery is not expected. It outlines the kinds of medical interventions a person does or does not want, such as the use of a ventilator or feeding tubes.

Legal Reference: Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Section 3101.9.

- 2. Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare (Healthcare Proxy):**

This document designates a person (often called a healthcare agent or proxy) to make medical decisions on behalf of the individual if they are incapacitated. The appointed agent is empowered to act in the patient's best interests, consistent with their preferences.

Legal Reference: Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Section 3101.4.

- 3. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order:**

This is a medical order that specifically directs healthcare providers not to perform CPR if the person's heart stops or if they stop breathing. A DNR must be written by a physician, and it is typically used by patients who have terminal conditions or are in hospice care.

Legal Reference: Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Section 3101.12.

- 4. Out-of-Hospital Do Not Resuscitate (OOH-DNR) Order:**

An OOH-DNR is similar to a DNR order but applies when the person is not in a hospital. It is an order signed by both a physician and the patient (or their legal representative) and is intended for situations like home or hospice care.

Legal Reference: Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Section 3101.14.

Importance of Advanced Directives

- 1. Ensure Healthcare Choices Are Honored:**

Advanced directives allow individuals to make decisions ahead of time about their care, which is particularly important in situations where they may be unable to communicate, such as in the case of severe injury or illness. These documents protect the right to make personal decisions about end-of-life care, life support, and organ donation.

- 2. Provide Guidance for Family and Healthcare Providers:**

By outlining one's wishes, advanced directives reduce confusion or conflict among family members and healthcare providers when it comes to making difficult decisions



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I need an attorney to create an advanced directive?** No, you do not need an attorney to create an advanced directive. However, an attorney may be helpful if you need advice on complex medical decisions or legal matters regarding the directives.
- **Can my family override my advanced directive?** In most cases, no. If your advanced directive is legally valid, healthcare providers are required to honor it. However, if your family members believe that the directive does not reflect your current wishes, they may challenge it in court.
- **Are advanced directives just for the elderly or terminally ill?** No. Advanced directives are for anyone who wants to ensure their healthcare preferences are known and respected, regardless of age or health status.

Conclusion

Advanced directives are an essential tool for ensuring that your healthcare preferences are respected, especially during times when you may not be able to communicate. In Oklahoma, these legal documents—such as living wills, durable powers of attorney, and DNR orders—offer guidance for families and healthcare providers, preserving individual autonomy and decision-making power. By creating an advanced directive, you help ensure that your values and choices guide your care in the future.

References:

- Oklahoma Statutes Title 63, Sections 3101.1 through 3101.14
- Oklahoma State Department of Health. *Oklahoma Advance Directive for Health Care*. [Link to resource](#)
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. *Advance Directives*. [Link to resource](#)

Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program Consent Form

Hospital Administrator

Date

Director of Nursing

Date

Medical Director

Date

Quality Director

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

Date

Additional Staff Member/Title

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Additional Staff Member/Title

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Additional Staff Member/Title

Date



OKLAHOMA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM CONSENT FORM

Patient Information:

- **Patient Name:** _____
- **Date of Birth:** _____
- **Address:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____

Consent to Access Prescription Information

The Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is a state-run database designed to track prescriptions for controlled substances, including opioids, sedatives, and other medications that are at risk of misuse or abuse. The PMP helps healthcare providers make informed decisions regarding your care and assists in identifying patterns of prescription drug misuse.

By signing this form, I, the undersigned patient, acknowledge and consent to the following:

1. Access to Prescription History:

I understand that the healthcare provider(s) involved in my treatment may access my prescription information in the Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) database. This information includes any controlled substance prescriptions that have been dispensed to me by pharmacies in Oklahoma.

2. Purpose of Access:

The purpose of accessing my prescription information through the PMP is to allow healthcare providers to:

- Ensure that prescriptions for controlled substances are appropriate and medically necessary.
- Prevent overuse, misuse, or abuse of controlled substances.
- Help providers make informed treatment decisions in my best interest.

3. Legal Obligation to Query the PMP:

I understand that healthcare providers in Oklahoma are legally required to query the