



## **MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCE DIRECTIVES GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

**Attending physician.** A physician who has primary responsibility for the treatment and care of the person making the advance directive.

**Agent.** An individual named by a person in a mental health care power of attorney who will make mental health care decisions on behalf of the person.

**Amend.** To change or modify by adding or subtracting language.

**Declaration.** A writing which expresses a person's wishes and instructions for mental health care or other subjects.

**Execute.** To sign, date, and have the signature witnessed.

**Mental health advance directive.** A document that allows a person to make choices regarding mental health treatment known in the event that the person is incapacitated by his/her mental illness. In effect, the person is giving or withholding consent to treatment before treatment is needed.

**Mental health care.** Any care, treatment, service or procedure to maintain, diagnose, treat, or provide for mental health, including any medication program and therapeutic treatment.

**Mental health care provider.** A person who is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized by the laws of Pennsylvania to provide mental health care.

**Mental health treatment professional.** A person trained and licensed in psychiatry, social work, psychology, or nursing who has a graduate degree and clinical experience.

**Power of attorney.** A writing made by a person naming someone else to make mental health care decisions on behalf of the person.

**Revoke.** To cancel or end.

## **Contact Information**

If you need more information or need help, please contact Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) at 800-692-7443 (voice) or 877-375-7139 (TDD). The email address is: [intake@disabilityrightspa.org](mailto:intake@disabilityrightspa.org).

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