DIRECTIVES

What is an Advance Directive?

An advance directive outlines a person's wishes if he or she is incapacitated or unable to express their desires for medical health care and treatments. Every adult has the legal right to consent to or refuse medical treatment and may declare their wishes in writing in the event that they cannot communicate them. This writing is called an Advance Directive. Under federal law, any facility receiving Medicare or Medicaid reimbursements is required to inform patients about these rights. However, you are not required to have an Advance Directive in order to receive care, treatment, or be admitted.

What is a Behavioral Health Advance Directive?

Similar to a medical Advance Directive, a Behavioral Health Advance Directive is a written document where a person declares their wishes regarding behavioral healthcare in the event that they cannot communicate them due to a crisis or other medical condition. In a Behavioral Health Advance Directive, you can express your preferences on where to receive behavioral healthcare and what treatments you are willing to undergo. These wishes may include the use of all, or certain medications, preferred facilities and listings of visitors allowed if you are admitted to facility-based care. Under Colorado law, SummitStone Health Partners must inform you of these rights. However, you are not required to have a Behavioral Health Advance Directive in order to receive care, treatment, or be admitted.

For additional information, forms and assistance, please refer to the following resources:

Colorado Bar Association - (303) 860-1115

https://www.cobar.org/For-the-Public/Legal-Brochures/Advance-Medical-Directives

American Bar Association

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/law_issues_for_consumers/patient_self_determination_act/

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) - 1 (877) 726-4727

"A Practical Guide to Psychiatric Advance Directives"
https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/a_practical_guide_to_psychiatric_advance_directives.pdf

Colorado Hospital Association - (720) 489-1630

"Your Right to Make Healthcare Decisions"
https://cha.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/medicaldecisions_2011-02.pdf

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – SAMHSA

App based tool found at:

https://smiadviser.org/mymhcp?utm_source=SAMHSA_social

If further assistance is needed, please contact our Client Advocate at (970) 829-2852 or email clientadvocate@summitstonehealth.org