

FACT SHEET

Advance Care Directives



If you are over 18 and able to make your own decisions, you can make an Advance Care Directive (ACD).

An Advance Care Directive:

- Is a legal document.
- Can include decisions about your health care, accommodation, and personal affairs.
- Includes old Enduring Power of Guardianship, Medical Power of Attorney, and Anticipatory Direction documents.
- Does not cover decisions about finances, property, or legal affairs.
 - For more information about making financial decisions, please see our “Enduring Power of Attorney” Fact Sheet.

When completing an Advance Care Directive:

- You must use the official Advance Care Directive form.
- You can appoint one or more substitute decision-makers (SDMs).
- You can write down your wishes and instructions about your future.
 - The more details you include about your wishes, the better equipped your SDM is to make the decision you would have wanted.
- You can include end-of-life directions.
- It must be signed by an authorised witness.
- You should give certified copies to your SDMs and your doctor.
 - There is no ACD register.

Substitute Decision-Makers should:

- Help if you are unable to make a particular decision for yourself.
- Ask you about your wishes and needs.
- Strictly follow any medical refusals (these are legally binding).
- Consider your past and present wishes, *and* your proper care and protection.
- Try to make decisions as you would have made them (“stand in your shoes”).

You can get an Advance Care Directive form by:

- Contacting Services SA -- <https://service.sa.gov.au/> or call 132324.
- Calling the Legal Services Commission on 1300 366 424.
- Downloading from or completing on the Advance Care Directives website: www.advancecaresdirectives.sa.gov.au