



Government
of South Australia

Office of the Public Advocate

Consent to medical treatment

Easy Read fact sheet



How to use this fact sheet



The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) wrote this fact sheet.

When you see the word 'we', it means OPA.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 10.



This Easy Read fact sheet is a summary of another fact sheet.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other fact sheet on our website.

www.opa.sa.gov.au/information-service/fact-sheets



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A friend, family member or support person
may be able to help you.

What is consent?



When you give your **consent**, you say it is okay for someone to do something.

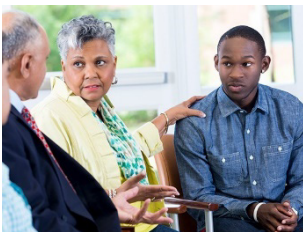
You can give your consent when you:



- are over 16 years old



- can make decisions on your own.



Your parent or **guardian** can give consent if you are under 16 years old.

A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:



- your health
- where you live
- who you live with
- personal matters.

Consent to medical treatment



You can't have medical treatment without giving your consent.



If you can't give consent, the person who is giving you the treatment must get consent from someone else.

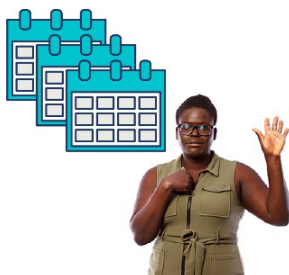


You might have an **Advance Care Directive (ACD)**.



An ACD is a legal document.

When you make an ACD, you talk about what you want:



- for your future



- if you can't make a decision on your own.



The person who is giving you the treatment might ask a **person responsible** for consent.



A person responsible is someone who makes decisions about your health care.



Your person responsible could be someone who knows you well, such as a:

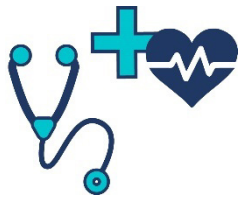
- family member
- carer
- friend
- guardian
- **substitute decision-maker.**



A substitute decision-maker is someone you choose to make decisions for you in an ACD.

What can a person responsible do?

Your person responsible can make decisions about:



- your health care and medical treatment



- care you need near the end of your life.



Your person responsible can choose not to give consent for your medical treatment.

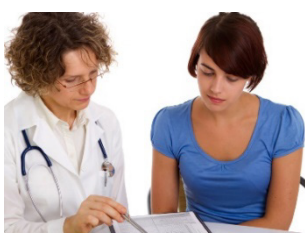
Your person responsible should find out about:



- how the treatment will work

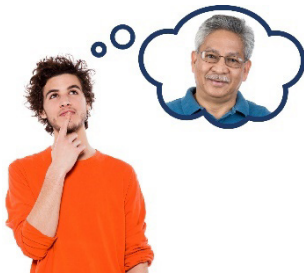


- good things that will come from having the treatment



- risks of having the treatment.

They must:



- 'stand in your shoes' and think about the treatment from your point of view



- make the same decision they think you would make.

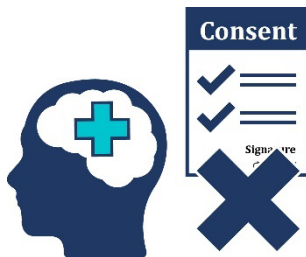
Your person responsible cannot consent to medical treatment that will stop you:



- having babies



- being pregnant.



There are some mental health treatments your person responsible cannot consent to.

What if you don't have a person responsible?



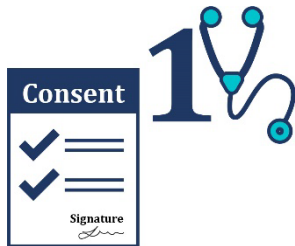
The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) help people find ways to work out:

- problems
- disagreements.



SACAT find ways that:

- are fair
- follow the law.



SACAT can give consent for medical treatment you only need once.



SACAT can choose a guardian to be your person responsible.

2 doctors can agree together to treatment if:



- it's an emergency and you need medical treatment straight away



- the treatment could save your life.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Advance Care Directive (ACD)

An ACD is a legal document.

When you make an ACD, you talk about what you want:

- for your future
- if you can't make a decision on your own.



Consent

When you give your consent, you say it is okay for someone to do something.

Guardian

A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:

- your health
- where you live
- who you live with
- personal matters.





Person responsible

A person responsible is someone who makes decisions about your health care.



Substitute decision-maker

A substitute decision-maker is someone you choose to make decisions for you in an ACD.

Contact us



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