

FACT SHEET

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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 Service SA - <https://service.sa.gov.au/> or call 132 324.
- Calling the Legal Services Commission on 1300 366 424.
- Downloading from or completing on the Advance Care Directives website - www.advancecaredirectives.sa.gov.au