


Revision Date: 10/1/20	Primary Author(s): Sophia Elliott
Authorized Signature: Trenee Parker, DFS Director	

POLICY 804 –Advance Health Care Directive

A. POLICY

Youth will receive information about the importance of designating another individual to make health care treatment decisions on their behalf in the event they become incapacitated and do not have, or do not want, an authorized relative to make health care treatment decisions for them.

B. PROCEDURES

Youth in foster care aged 18 and over, and youth exiting foster care at age 18 are to be informed about the Health Care Power of Attorney and the Advance Health Care Directive. Youth will receive information that outlines the necessity to make such designations and the process of executing the Advance Health Care Directive that includes a Power of Attorney for Health Care.

The DFS caseworker shall discuss the Delaware Advance Health Care Directive as part of the STEPS meeting held prior to a youth turning 18.

The Advance Health Care Directive includes the Health Care Power of Attorney. This document is designed for adults 18 and over who wish to name an individual to make health care decisions on their behalf should they become incapacitated and cannot make their own decisions.

The DFS caseworker should provide an explanation of the Advance Health Care Directive and the actual form. This information is located on the DHSS website. The explanation is located here: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd/powerof.html>, and the form is located here: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd/advance1.html>.

The DFS caseworker shall ensure the form is included with the essential documents provided to the youth during the exit meeting that occurs 90 days before the youth exits foster care

C. FOCUS

Documentation that the youth received the explanation and form should be included in the case note for the STEPS meetings.

D. FORMS

<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd/advance1.html>