



# Know Your Rights to Medical Treatment

---

**Presenters:**

**Jan Lampman**

**Mary Shehan-Boogaard**

# Everyone Has a Right to:

- Equal access to healthcare
- Equal treatment options as people without disabilities
- Tell their doctors how they want to be treated (i.e. coerced DNR and/or the assumption that the person shouldn't have a say in treatment)
- Speak to a patient advocate or someone who helps you make decisions and have that person at bedside if necessary
- Have CLS staff to provide direct care needs (eating, etc.)
- Have an ADA approved service dog or any other needed accommodation or device

# A Word About Decision-Making

It is important to talk to anyone who is helping you with Medical Decision Making **before** you need Medical care so that they know what you want and need. For example:

- What are your current Medical needs
- What treatments do you want or not want
- When do you want CPR and is there a situation where you would not want CPR

# Hospitals Cannot:

- Refuse to treat because you have a disability
- Place people with disabilities on a lower priority for treatment because of the disability
- Discriminate against you for having a disability
- Discriminate against you for your race, gender, health status or sexual orientation/identity



# Steps to Supported Decision-Making

- Start the conversation
- Identifying who is willing and able to assist
- Plan and communicate
- Set up agreement
- Let everyone know



## Release of Information Forms

When signed by an adult with a disability, ROI forms authorize parents (and other allies) access to persons records, medical information and legal proceedings. This helps to ensure quality and continuity of services and care and enhances the supported decision-making process.



# Medical Power of Attorney

A medical power of attorney is a legal document in which you appoint an agent to make health care decisions on your behalf when you cannot make them for yourself.

# Guardianship

Shall be utilized only as necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the individual...

And shall be designed to encourage the development of **maximum self-reliance** and **autonomy** in the individual.

MCLA, Chapter 6





# Who to Contact if you need help

- Michigan Protection and Advocacy Services 800-288-5923
- Michigan Department of Civil Rights 800-482-3604
- Center for Independent Living (Disability Network)
- Your local chapter of The Arc
- You can find LifeCourse tools at,  
<https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>