

Life Decisions

Below you will find up-to-date information on important life decisions that are available in Michigan.

Advance Directives: Advance Directives take different forms in different states. In Michigan an Advance Directive is called the MICHIGAN PATIENT ADVOCATE DESIGNATION.

The one legal form you will need in Michigan is the Health Care Agent assignment (a.k.a Health Care Proxy or Medical Power of Attorney). Any of the forms linked [here](#) will include a portion for the Health Care Agent assignment. It needs to be signed by two witnesses, (not your health care agent or a realtive) and it does not need to be notarized.

Add to the legal form any other form that offers more information about your wishes, should you be in a critical health condition with little chance that you will recover the ability to know who you are or who you are with (you can use several different forms to make sure your wishes are clearly stated). And remember it is very important that you have a conversation with your family and friends about your wishes. [The Conversation Starter Kit](#) gives you a great tool to start that conversation.

Here is the link to one extensive Michigan Advance Directive form:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/miseniors/Advance_Directives_230752_7.pdf

Release of Health Information (HIPAA Release)

[Michigan Authorization to Protected Health Information PDF Version](#)

[Michigan Authorization to Protected Health Information MS Word Fill-in Version](#)

Hospice facilities in the Lansing Area

Non-profit:

[Hospice of Lansing \(in-home care and Stoneleigh Residence\)](#)

[Sparrow Hospice \(in-home care, inpatient care, in nursing homes and assisted living facilities\)](#)

[McLaren Hospice \(in-home care, inpatient care, in nursing homes and assisted living facilities\)](#)

For-profit:

[Hospice Advantage](#)

[Michigan Organ Donation Program](#)

Michigan Willed Body Programs

[Michigan State Willed Body Program](#)

[University of Michigan Anatomical Donations Program](#)

[Wayne State University Body Bequest](#)

Funeral Planning

In Michigan a funeral director will need to transport the body from the place of death to either your home (if you are planning a home funeral), to a funeral home or directly to a cemetery or crematorium. The website <https://www.parting.com/> may be helpful in comparing funeral related prices in the area.

Notice: The least expensive option, besides a Willed Body program, would be Direct Cremation or Direct Burial. The [Michigan Funeral Consumers Information Society](#) is an independent organization which offers a lot of information on burial procedures in Michigan.

Michigan Death Certificate

Order form: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deathapp_6467_7.pdf

Death with Dignity Legislation

Michigan has no legislation yet. Rep. Tom Cochran and Pam Farris introduced [House Bill 4461](#) in March 2017.

Feeling overwhelmed?

[Navigating the Logistics of Death Ahead of Time](#) is a This NY Times article that reviews companies that offer digital tools for many life decisions. One of them - [Everplans](#) - offers numerous free resources, guides and links to forms relevant in Michigan.

Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Life Decisions team should you have any questions about the topics mentioned above. (Joanne Cameron, 517-3339-7329, mjocameron113@gmail.com; Molly Dean, 517-214-5210, mollydean529@gmail.com; Gabriele Mayer, 517-655-2161, g57mayer@gmail.com; Deb Mosher, 517-337-0169, djmosher@sbcglobal.net; Kathleen Veith, 517-802-7424, kathleen8and10@gmail.com)