



Ohio Revised Code

Section 2135.01 Declaration for mental health treatment definitions.

Effective: March 20, 2025

Legislation: Senate Bill 196

As used in sections 2135.01 to 2135.15 of the Revised Code:

(A) "Adult" means a person who is eighteen years of age or older.

(B) "Capacity to consent to mental health treatment decisions" means the functional ability to understand information about the risks of, benefits of, and alternatives to the proposed mental health treatment, to rationally use that information, to appreciate how that information applies to the declarant, and to express a choice about the proposed treatment.

(C) "Declarant" means an adult who has executed a declaration for mental health treatment in accordance with this chapter.

(D) "Declaration for mental health treatment" or "declaration" means a written document declaring preferences or instructions regarding mental health treatment executed in accordance with this chapter.

(E) "Designated physician" means the physician the declarant has named in a declaration for mental health treatment and has assigned the primary responsibility for the declarant's mental health treatment or, if the declarant has not so named a physician, the physician who has accepted that responsibility.

(F) "Guardian" means a person appointed by a probate court pursuant to Chapter 2111. of the Revised Code to have the care and management of the person of an incompetent.

(G) "Health care" means any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat an individual's physical or mental condition or physical or mental health.

(H) "Health care facility" has the same meaning as in section 1337.11 of the Revised Code.



(I) "Incompetent" has the same meaning as in section 2111.01 of the Revised Code.

(J) "Informed consent" means consent voluntarily given by a person after a sufficient explanation and disclosure of the subject matter involved to enable that person to have a general understanding of the nature, purpose, and goal of the treatment or procedures, including the substantial risks and hazards inherent in the proposed treatment or procedures and any alternative treatment or procedures, and to make a knowing health care decision without coercion or undue influence.

(K) "Medical record" means any document or combination of documents that pertains to a declarant's medical history, diagnosis, prognosis, or medical condition and that is generated and maintained in the process of the declarant's health care.

(L) "Mental health treatment" means any care, treatment, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat an individual's mental condition or mental health, including, but not limited to, electroconvulsive or other convulsive treatment, treatment of mental illness with medication, and admission to and retention in a health care facility.

(M) "Mental health treatment decision" means informed consent, refusal to give informed consent, or withdrawal of informed consent to mental health treatment.

(N) "Mental health treatment provider" means physicians, physician assistants, psychologists, licensed independent social workers, licensed professional clinical counselors, and psychiatric nurses.

(O) "Physician" means a person who is authorized under Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.

(P) "Professional disciplinary action" means action taken by the board or other entity that regulates the professional conduct of health care personnel, including, but not limited to, the state medical board, the state board of psychology, and the state board of nursing.

(Q) "Proxy" means an adult designated to make mental health treatment decisions for a declarant



under a valid declaration for mental health treatment.

(R) "Psychiatric nurse" means a registered nurse who holds a master's degree or doctorate in nursing with a specialization in psychiatric nursing.

(S) "Psychiatrist" has the same meaning as in section 5122.01 of the Revised Code.

(T) "Psychologist" has the same meaning as in section 4732.01 of the Revised Code.

(U) "Registered nurse" has the same meaning as in section 4723.01 of the Revised Code.

(V) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property, other than a civil action for damages for a breach of contract or another agreement between persons.