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Subject: Sneak Peek of Bifocal: Health Care Decision-Making Authority of Guardians and Agents

Dear Subscriber:

As a subscriber to *Bifocal*, e-Journal of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging, you are being sent this exclusive sneak peek of an article from the August 2015 issue.

Sneak Peek

Health Care Decision-Making Authority of Guardians and Agents: An Update

By Dara Valanejad

Does the court-appointed guardian or the patient-appointed agent have the ultimate authority over an incapacitated individual's health care? This article provides a brief update on the statutorily established health care decision-making authority of each state. Additionally, this article highlights the growth of decision-making standards for court-appointed guardians with health care authority and emphasizes that patient-appointed health care agents should be the final authority on an incapacitated individual's health care.

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The mission of the ABA Commission on Law and Aging is to strengthen and secure the legal rights, dignity, autonomy, quality of life, and quality of care of elders. It carries out this mission through research, policy development, technical assistance, advocacy, education, and training on a wide range of law-related issues, including: legal services to older persons; health and long-term care; housing; professional ethical issues; Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public benefit programs; guardianship; elder abuse; health care decision-making; pain management and end-of-life care; dispute resolution; and court-related needs of older persons.

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