AN ACT

Relating to supported decision-making agreements to provide for decision-making assistance; and amending Rule 402, Alaska Rules of Evidence.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1
AN ACT

Relating to supported decision-making agreements to provide for decision-making assistance;

* Section 1. AS 13 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

Chapter 56. Supported Decision-Making Agreements.

Sec. 13.56.010. Agreements authorized. (a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, an adult may enter into a supported decision-making agreement. A supported decision-making agreement allows an adult to receive decision-making assistance with the adult's affairs from one or more other adults.

(b) The adult wanting to receive decision-making assistance may not enter into a supported decision-making agreement unless the adult

(1) enters into the agreement voluntarily and without coercion or undue influence; and

(2) understands the nature and effect of the agreement.
(c) An adult may not enter into a supported decision-making agreement under this section if the agreement encroaches on the authority of a guardian or conservator of the adult, unless the guardian or conservator approves in writing the adult entering into the supported decision-making agreement.

Sec. 13.56.020. Eligibility of supporters. A supporter must be an adult, but may not be

(1) an employer or employee of the principal, unless the employer or employee is an immediate family member of the principal;

(2) a person who provides paid support services, except decision-making assistance, directly to the principal, unless the person is an immediate family member of the principal; or

(3) a person against whom a protective order or restraining order has been entered by a court on request of or on behalf of the principal.

Sec. 13.56.030. Contents of agreement. (a) A supported decision-making agreement must

(1) name one or more adults to provide a principal with decision-making assistance; and

(2) describe the decision-making assistance that each supporter may provide the principal.

(b) A supported decision-making agreement must contain a notice to third parties that summarizes the rights and obligations of the supporter under this chapter and expressly identifies this chapter.

(c) A supported decision-making agreement may

(1) name an alternate supporter to act in the place of a supporter and the circumstances under which the alternate supporter may act;

(2) authorize a supporter to share information with another supporter named in the agreement, including an alternate supporter.

Sec. 13.56.040. Requirements for validity. A supported decision-making agreement is valid if

(1) the agreement is dated and in writing;

(2) the agreement satisfies the requirements of AS 13.56.010 -
(3) the agreement has been signed by the principal and each named supporter, including any alternate supporter, and the

   (A) signing takes place in the presence of two witnesses who also sign the agreement; or

   (B) signatures of the principal and each named supporter, including any alternate supporter, are notarized; and

   (4) when the principal has a guardian or conservator, the principal has notified the guardian or conservator of the agreement.

Sec. 13.56.050. Declarations by supporters. A supported decision-making agreement must contain a separate declaration by each supporter that states the supporter's relationship with the principal, states the willingness of the supporter to act as a supporter for the principal, and indicates that the supporter acknowledges the duties of a supporter under this chapter. Each declaration must be signed by the supporter making the declaration.

Sec. 13.56.060. Witnesses. (a) Each witness under AS 13.56.040 must be an adult who understands the means of communication used by the principal, except, if there is an individual who understands the principal's means of communication present to assist during the execution of the supported decision-making agreement, the witnesses are not required to understand the means of communication used by the principal.

   (b) A witness under AS 13.56.040 may not be a supporter named in the supported decision-making agreement or an employee or agent of a supporter named in the supported decision-making agreement.

Sec. 13.56.070. Term of agreement. A supported decision-making agreement may indicate the date it becomes effective and its duration. If the supported decision-making agreement does not indicate the date it becomes effective, the supported decision-making agreement becomes effective immediately. If a supported decision-making agreement does not indicate its duration, the supported decision-making agreement remains effective until terminated under AS 13.56.080.

Sec. 13.56.080. Termination of agreement. (a) A principal may at any time
terminate all or a portion of a supported decision-making agreement. A supporter may at any time terminate all or a portion of the supporter's obligations under a supported decision-making agreement, including the declaration of support described in AS 13.56.050.

(b) A termination under (a) of this section must be in writing and signed, and

(1) the signing must take place in the presence of two witnesses who also sign the termination; or

(2) the signature must be notarized.

(c) A principal or supporter terminating all or a portion of a supported decision-making agreement shall notify, in person, by certified mail, or by electronic means, the other party to the agreement that the agreement has been terminated.

(d) If a portion of a supported decision-making agreement is terminated under this section and the termination is consistent with this section, the remainder of the agreement remains in effect.

Sec. 13.56.090. Duties of supporter. A supporter shall act with the care, competence, and diligence ordinarily exercised by individuals in similar circumstances.

Sec. 13.56.100. Decision-making assistance of supporter. (a) Except as limited by a supported decision-making agreement, a supporter may provide to a principal the following decision-making assistance about the principal's affairs:

(1) assisting with making decisions, communicating decisions, and understanding information about, options for, the responsibilities of, and the consequences of decisions;

(2) accessing, obtaining, and understanding information that is relevant to decisions necessary for the principal to manage the principal's affairs, including medical, psychological, financial, and educational information, medical treatment records, and other records;

(3) ascertaining the wishes and decisions of the principal, assisting in communicating those wishes and decisions to other persons, and advocating to ensure the implementation of the principal's wishes and decisions; and

(4) accompanying the principal and participating in discussions with
other persons when the principal is making decisions or attempting to obtain information for decisions.

(b) Under (a)(2) of this section, a supporter may use the principal's dated consent to assist the principal in obtaining protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191) or educational records under 20 U.S.C. 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974).

**Sec. 13.56.110. Prohibited activities.** A supporter may not

(1) exert undue influence on the principal;

(2) make decisions for or on behalf of the principal;

(3) sign for the principal or provide an electronic signature of the principal to a third party;

(4) obtain, without the consent of the principal, information that is not reasonably related to matters with which the supporter may assist the principal under the supported decision-making agreement; or

(5) use, without the consent of the principal, information acquired for a purpose authorized by this chapter for a purpose other than assisting the principal to make a decision under the supported decision-making agreement.

**Sec. 13.56.120. Confidentiality, handling, and disposal of information.** A supporter shall keep the information collected by the supporter on behalf of the principal under this chapter confidential, may not use the information for a use that is not authorized by the principal, shall protect the information from unauthorized access, use, or disclosure, and shall dispose of the information properly when appropriate.

**Sec. 13.56.130. Recognition of decisions and requests.** A person shall recognize a decision or request made or communicated with the decision-making assistance of a supporter under this chapter as the decision or request of the principal for the purposes of a provision of law, and the principal or supporter may enforce the decision or request in law or equity on the same basis as a decision or request of the principal.

**Sec. 13.56.140. Limitation of liability.** (a) A person who, in good faith, either
acts in reliance on an authorization in a supported decision-making agreement or
decides to honor an authorization in a supported decision-making agreement is not
subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for unprofessional conduct for

(1) complying with an authorization in a supported decision-making
agreement, if the person is complying based on an assumption that the underlying
supported decision-making agreement was valid when made and has not been
terminated under AS 13.56.080;

(2) declining to comply with an authorization in a supported decision-
making agreement if the person is declining based on actual knowledge that the
supported decision-making agreement is invalid or has been terminated under
AS 13.56.080;

(3) declining to comply with an authorization related to health care in a
supported decision-making agreement, if the person is declining because the action
proposed to be taken under the supported decision-making agreement is contrary to
the good faith medical judgment of the person or to a written policy of a health care
institution that is based on reasons of conscience.

(b) In this section, "good faith" means honesty in fact and the observance of
reasonable standards of fair dealing.

Sec. 13.56.150. Capability and capacity. (a) In the application of this chapter,
a decision that a principal is incapable of managing the principal's affairs may not be
based on the manner in which the principal communicates with others.

(b) An adult who enters into a supported decision-making agreement may act
without the decision-making assistance of the supporter.

(c) A person may not use the execution of a supported decision-making
agreement as evidence that the principal does not have capacity.

(d) In this chapter, a principal is considered to have capacity even if the
capacity is achieved by the principal receiving decision-making assistance.

Sec. 13.56.160. Principal's affairs. This chapter applies to decisions related to
the following affairs of a principal:

(1) monitoring health, obtaining, scheduling, implementing, and
coordinating health and support services, understanding health care information and
options, providing for care and comfort, and other health care and personal matters in
which the principal makes decisions about the principal's health care;

(2) managing income and assets and the use of income and assets for
clothing, support, care, comfort, education, shelter, and payment of other liabilities of
the principal;

(3) handling personal, health care, and financial matters that arise in
the course of daily living;

(4) monitoring information about the principal's support services,
including future necessary or recommended support services;

(5) living arrangements, including where and with whom the principal
wants to live; and

(6) working arrangements, including where the principal wants to
work.

Sec. 13.56.170. Support services. The following are considered support
services under this chapter:

(1) house repair, home cleaning, laundry, shopping, and providing
meals;

(2) transportation, accompanying a principal, and facilitating a
principal's written, oral, and electronic communication;

(3) nurse visitations and attendant care;

(4) provision of health care;

(5) physical and psychosocial assessments;

(6) financial assessments and advice on banking, taxes, loans,
investments, and management of real property;

(7) legal assessments and advice;

(8) education and educational assessments and advice;

(9) assistance with bathing, dressing, eating, range of motion, toileting,
transferring, ambulation, and other direct assistance with the activities of daily living;

(10) care planning;

(11) services that assist in maintaining the independence of a principal.

Sec. 13.56.180. Form for supported decision-making agreement. A
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supported decision-making agreement must be in substantially the following form:

STATUTORY FORM FOR
SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING AGREEMENT

(1) INTRODUCTION. I,____________________, want to have one or more persons I trust help me make decisions, obtain and understand the information I need to make my decisions, and tell other people about my decisions. The people who will help me are my "supporters."

I can name three supporters in this form. If I want to have more than three supporters, I can use a form that is substantially similar to this form to enter into a supported decision-making agreement with the additional supporters.

This is a written agreement between me ("principal") and each of my supporters. I can say in this agreement what kind of help each of my supporters will give me. A SUPPORTER APPOINTED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT DOES NOT MAKE DECISIONS FOR ME.

My supporters may share information with each other (select one of the following):

Yes [ ] No [ ]

(2) SUPPORTERS. These are my supporters:

SUPPORTER NO. 1
Name:_________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________
Telephone number:_______________________________________
Electronic mail address:__________________________________

I want this supporter to help me with (mark any of the following you want):

[ ] Making choices about food and clothing
[ ] Making choices about where and with whom I live
[ ] Making choices about my health and health care
[ ] Making choices about how I spend my time
Making choices about where I work
Making choices about my support services
Making choices about how I spend my money and how I save my money
Making choices about legal matters
Making choices about (list other areas the supporter will help you with):

_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

I do not want this supporter to help me with:

_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

SUPPORTER NO. 2

Name: ___________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
Telephone number: _________________________________________
Electronic mail address: ____________________________________

I want this supporter to help me with (mark any of the following you want):

[ ] Making choices about food and clothing
[ ] Making choices about where and with whom I live
[ ] Making choices about my health and health care
[ ] Making choices about how I spend my time
[ ] Making choices about where I work
[ ] Making choices about my support services
[ ] Making choices about how I spend my money and how I save my money
[ ] Making choices about legal matters
[ ] Making choices about (list other areas the supporter will help you with):

_________________________________________________________
I do not want this supporter to help me with:

SUPPORTER NO. 3

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Telephone number: __________________________________
Electronic mail address: ______________________________

I want this supporter to help me with (mark any of the following you want):

[ ] Making choices about food and clothing
[ ] Making choices about where and with whom I live
[ ] Making choices about my health and health care
[ ] Making choices about how I spend my time
[ ] Making choices about where I work
[ ] Making choices about my support services
[ ] Making choices about how I spend my money and how I save my money
[ ] Making choices about legal matters
[ ] Making choices about (list other areas the supporter will help you with):

I do not want this supporter to help me with:

ALTERNATE SUPPORTER. If one of my supporters dies, becomes unable to act as my supporter, refuses to act as my supporter, or terminates the supporter’s part of this agreement, I want the following person to become my supporter and help me with the areas the original
supporter was helping me with:

Name: ___________________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________

Telephone number:_________________________________________

Electronic mail address:_____________________________________

(3) INFORMATION ACCESS FORMS. I am attaching to this agreement (mark yes or no for each choice below):

A form that lets my supporter(s) obtain my health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Yes [ ] No [ ]

A form that lets my supporter(s) see my educational records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Yes [ ] No [ ]

(4) GUARDIANS AND CONSERVATORS. If I have a guardian or conservator, I must notify the guardian or conservator about this agreement. If this agreement encroaches on the authority of that guardian or conservator, the guardian or conservator must approve this agreement in writing.

[ ] I have a guardian, and I have notified the guardian about this agreement.

[ ] I am attaching a signed statement by my guardian approving my use of this agreement.

[ ] I have a conservator, and I have notified the conservator about this agreement.

[ ] I am attaching a signed statement by my conservator approving my use of this agreement.

(5) NOTICE TO THIRD PARTIES. This is a summary of the rights and obligations of a supporter under AS 13.56, the chapter that authorizes making this agreement. A supporter does not make decisions for the principal, but a supporter may provide a principal with help when making decisions, obtaining information for decisions,
communicating decisions, and understanding the options, responsibilities, and consequences of decisions. A supporter may accompany the principal and participate in discussions with other persons. The principal sets out in this agreement the areas in which the supporter may help the principal with decisions.

A third party must recognize a decision or request of the principal that is made or communicated with the assistance of a supporter as the decision or request of the principal (AS 13.56.130). The principal or supporter may enforce the decision or request in law or equity. A principal may act without the help of the supporter.

(6) DURATION AND TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT. I can end all or part of this agreement at any time by giving notice to my supporter(s). My termination must be signed and notarized or witnessed like this agreement. This agreement starts ________ (date) and will continue until the agreement is terminated by me or my supporter(s).

(7) SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL. I know that I do not have to sign this agreement. I am entering into this agreement voluntarily and without coercion or undue influence. I understand the nature and effect of this agreement. I know that I can change this agreement at any time.

Signature: ____________________________________________
Printed name: _________________________________________
Telephone number:_______________________________________
Electronic mail address:___________________________________
Date: ___________________________________________________

(8) SIGNATURES OF SUPPORTERS.

Signature of Supporter No. 1
Signature: ____________________________________________
Printed name: _________________________________________
Date: ___________________________________________________

Signature of Supporter No. 2
(9) DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORTERS.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORTER NO. 1. I, ___________,
am the principal's _______________________ (relationship to the
principal). I am willing to act as the principal's supporter. I
acknowledge my duties as a supporter under AS 13.56.

I understand that my job as a supporter is to help the principal
make decisions, obtain and understand information for decisions,
communicate decisions, and understand the options, responsibilities,
and consequences of decisions. My support may include giving the
principal information in a way that the principal can understand,
discussing pros and cons of decisions, and helping the principal
communicate the principal's decisions.

I will act with care, competence, and diligence. I know that I
may not make decisions for the principal. I will not exert undue
influence on the principal. I will not sign for the principal or provide an
electronic signature of the principal to a third party. I will keep the
principal's information confidential. I will not use information I receive
under this agreement for a purpose other than as authorized by the
principal for decision making, unless the principal consents to another
use.
DECLARATION OF SUPPORTER NO. 2. I, __________, am the principal's __________ (relationship to the principal). I am willing to act as the principal's supporter. I acknowledge my duties as a supporter under AS 13.56.

I understand that my job as a supporter is to help the principal make decisions, obtain and understand information for decisions, communicate decisions, and understand the options, responsibilities, and consequences of decisions. My support may include giving the principal information in a way that the principal can understand, discussing pros and cons of decisions, and helping the principal communicate the principal's decisions.

I will act with care, competence, and diligence. I know that I may not make decisions for the principal. I will not exert undue influence on the principal. I will not sign for the principal or provide an electronic signature of the principal to a third party. I will keep the principal's information confidential. I will not use information I receive under this agreement for a purpose other than as authorized by the principal for decision making, unless the principal consents to another use.

Signature: ________________________________________________
Printed name: ______________________________________________
Date: ______________________________________________________

DECLARATION OF SUPPORTER NO. 3. I, __________, am the principal's __________ (relationship to the principal). I am willing to act as the principal's supporter. I acknowledge my duties as a supporter under AS 13.56.

I understand that my job as a supporter is to help the principal make decisions, obtain and understand information for decisions,
communicate decisions, and understand the options, responsibilities, and consequences of decisions. My support may include giving the principal information in a way that the principal can understand, discussing pros and cons of decisions, and helping the principal communicate the principal's decisions.

I will act with care, competence, and diligence. I know that I may not make decisions for the principal. I will not exert undue influence on the principal. I will not sign for the principal or provide an electronic signature of the principal to a third party. I will keep the principal's information confidential. I will not use information I receive under this agreement for a purpose other than as authorized by the principal for decision making, unless the principal consents to another use.

Signature: ________________________________________________
Printed name: _____________________________________________
Date: ____________________________________________________

DECLARATION OF ALTERNATE SUPPORTER. I, ______________________, am the principal's ______________________ (relationship to the principal). I am willing to act as the principal's supporter in the place of another supporter. I acknowledge the duties as a supporter under AS 13.56.

I understand that my job as a supporter would be to help the principal make decisions, obtain and understand information for decisions, communicate decisions, and understand the options, responsibilities, and consequences of decisions. My support may include giving the principal information in a way that the principal can understand, discussing pros and cons of decisions, and helping the principal communicate the principal's decisions.

I will act with care, competence, and diligence. I know that I may not make decisions for the principal. I will not exert undue influence on the principal. I will not sign for the principal or provide an
electronic signature of the principal to a third party. I will keep the principal's information confidential. I will not use information I receive under this agreement for a purpose other than as authorized by the principal for decision making, unless the principal consents to another use.

Signature: ________________________________________________

Printed name: _____________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________

(10) NOTARIZATION OR WITNESSING. The signatures on this agreement must be either (1) notarized, or (2) witnessed by two witnesses.

NOTARIZATION

State of _____________

____________________ Judicial District

On this _____ day of _____, in the year _____, before me, _________________ (name of notary public), appeared _________________ (name of principal), and_________________ (name of each supporter and alternate supporter named in the agreement), personally known to me to be the persons who executed this agreement, and each acknowledged to me that each executed the agreement as the person's free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes under this agreement.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and year written above.

_________________________________

(Signature of notary public)

(Seal, if any)

_________________________________

(My commission expires: _____________

WITNESSING
If the signatures are not notarized, two adults must witness the signatures of the principal, the supporter(s), and any alternate supporter, and all must sign together in the presence of the witnesses. A witness CANNOT be a supporter named in this agreement. The witnesses CANNOT be employees or agents of the supporter(s) named in this agreement. Unless a person who understands the principal's means of communication is present to assist when the agreement is signed, each witness must understand the means of communication used by the principal.

1. Witness signature: _______________________________________
   Printed name: ___________________________________________
   Date: __________________________________________________

2. Witness signature: _______________________________________
   Printed name: ___________________________________________
   Date: __________________________________________________

   (11) APPROVAL BY GUARDIAN. I am the guardian of
   _______________________. I have read and understand the nature and
   effect of this agreement. I approve the use of this agreement by
   _______________________ (name of principal) to obtain support in
   making decisions.
   Signature: _____________________________________________
   Printed name: ___________________________________________
   Date: __________________________________________________

   (12) APPROVAL BY CONSERVATOR. I am the conservator
   of _______________________. I have read and understand the nature
   and effect of this agreement. I approve the use of this agreement by
   _______________________ (name of principal) to obtain support in
   making decisions.
   Signature: _____________________________________________
   Printed name: ___________________________________________
   Date: __________________________________________________
Sec. 13.56.190. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise,

(1) "adult" means an individual who is 18 years of age or older;
(2) "affairs" means the affairs described in AS 13.56.160;
(3) "capacity" means the ability to understand and appreciate the nature and consequences of a decision and the ability to reach and communicate an informed decision;
(4) "conservator" means a person appointed a conservator under AS 13.26.401 - 13.26.595 or a similar law of another state;
(5) "decision" means a decision relating to the affairs of a principal;
(6) "decision-making assistance" means the decision-making assistance described in AS 13.56.100;
(7) "guardian" means a person appointed a guardian under AS 13.26.201 - 13.26.316 or a similar law of another state;
(8) "immediate family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, parent, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, stepchild, or stepsibling;
(9) "person" means an individual, health care institution, health care provider, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision, governmental agency, governmental instrumentality, public corporation, or another legal or commercial entity;
(10) "principal" means an adult who enters into a supported decision-making agreement under this chapter to receive decision-making assistance;
(11) "supported decision-making agreement" means an agreement authorized under AS 13.56.010;
(12) "supporter" means an adult who enters into a supported decision-making agreement and provides decision-making assistance;
(13) "support services" means the support services described in AS 13.56.170.

Sec. 13.56.195. Short title. This chapter may be cited as the Supported Decision-Making Agreements Act.

* Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
INDIRECT COURT RULE AMENDMENT. AS 13.56.150(c), added by sec. 1 of this Act, has the effect of changing Rule 402, Alaska Rules of Evidence, by prohibiting the execution of a supported decision-making agreement from being used as evidence of a principal's incapacity. In this section, "principal" and "supported decision-making agreement" have the meanings given in AS 13.56.190, added by sec. 1 of this Act.

* Sec. 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

CONDITIONAL EFFECT. AS 13.56.150(c), added by sec. 1 of this Act, takes effect only if sec. 2 of this Act receives the two-thirds majority vote of each house required by art. IV, sec. 15, Constitution of the State of Alaska.