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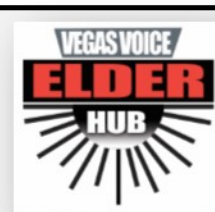
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# Vegas Voice Elder Hub News Letter



November 2018

[www.vegasvoiceelderhub.org](http://www.vegasvoiceelderhub.org)

## HEADING FOR THE LEGISLATURE 2019

Bill draft request related to supported decision-making agreements as a recognized means to support and accommodate adults with a disability in making life decisions.

Supported decision-making is a process of creating an agreement between an adult with a disability and a trusted supporter or supporters, which empowers an adult to make decisions about his or her own *housing, services, medical care, vocation, education, personal relationships and other life matters* without third parties making such decisions.



Supported decision-making is a less restrictive alternative to guardianship whereby supporters may assist the adult gather and evaluate information, help consider and communicate decisions, *but not as a substitute decision-maker*, as a guardian would be. The chosen person would be afforded the legal status to be with the adult and participate in discussions with others regarding areas where the supporter provides assistance. *Under the principles of supported decision-making, adults are enabled to choose to live their lives in the manner they wish consistent with their desires, values, beliefs, wishes and cultural norms.*

Supported decision-making agreements may be created in any format in accordance with the personal needs and desires of the supported person but must include all of the following:

- Designation of at least one supporter;
- The types of decisions for which the supporter is authorized to assist;
- The types of decisions, if any, for which the supporter may not assist;
- The agreement must be in writing;
- The agreement must be dated;
- Each party to the agreement must sign the agreement in the presence of two witnesses.

*The Bill draft request would include provisions and direction for non-parties to the agreement, including but not limited to, medical and financial professionals, to rely on the supported adult's decisions, not unlike provisions in laws governing powers of attorney.*

### NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

Will be announced and posted shortly