

SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING:

What the New Law Could Mean to your Clients

Tresi Weeks
The Weeks Law Firm, PLLC
5600 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 345
Plano, TX 75024
214-269-4290
www.weekslawfirm.com

Tresi Weeks



1

Texas is No. 1

- First to have margarita machines



- First to have Frito chips and Microchips



- First to have fajitas and Dr. Pepper



- First to enact a supported decision-making statute



Tresi Weeks



2

What We'll Cover

- Introduction to supported decision-making model
- History of Texas statute
- The Texas Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act
- Ethical considerations
- Application of supported decision-making agreements

Tresi Weeks



3

Supported Decision-Making Act

- Effective Sept. 1, 2015
- Chapter 1357 Texas Estates Code
- Less restrictive alternative to guardianship
- Part of guardianship reform

Tresi Weeks



4

Supported Decision-Making

- Process to support adult with intellectual, developmental or cognitive disabilities
- Provides help so adult can make own life decisions:
 - Where to live and with whom
 - Services and medical care to receive
 - Where to work

Tresi Weeks



5

Supported Decision-Making Agreement

- Written agreement
- Allows adult with a disability to choose “supporter”
- Supporter helps adult:
 - Obtain information needed to make decision
 - Understand the choices, risks
 - Communicate choice to appropriate parties
- Supporter does NOT make decision

Tresi Weeks



6

Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

Title search: Supported Decision Making: What the New Law Could Mean to Your Clients

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Legislative and Case Law Updates](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the

12th Annual Changes and Trends Affecting Special Needs Trusts session

"Supported Decision-Making: What the New Law Could Mean for Your Clients"