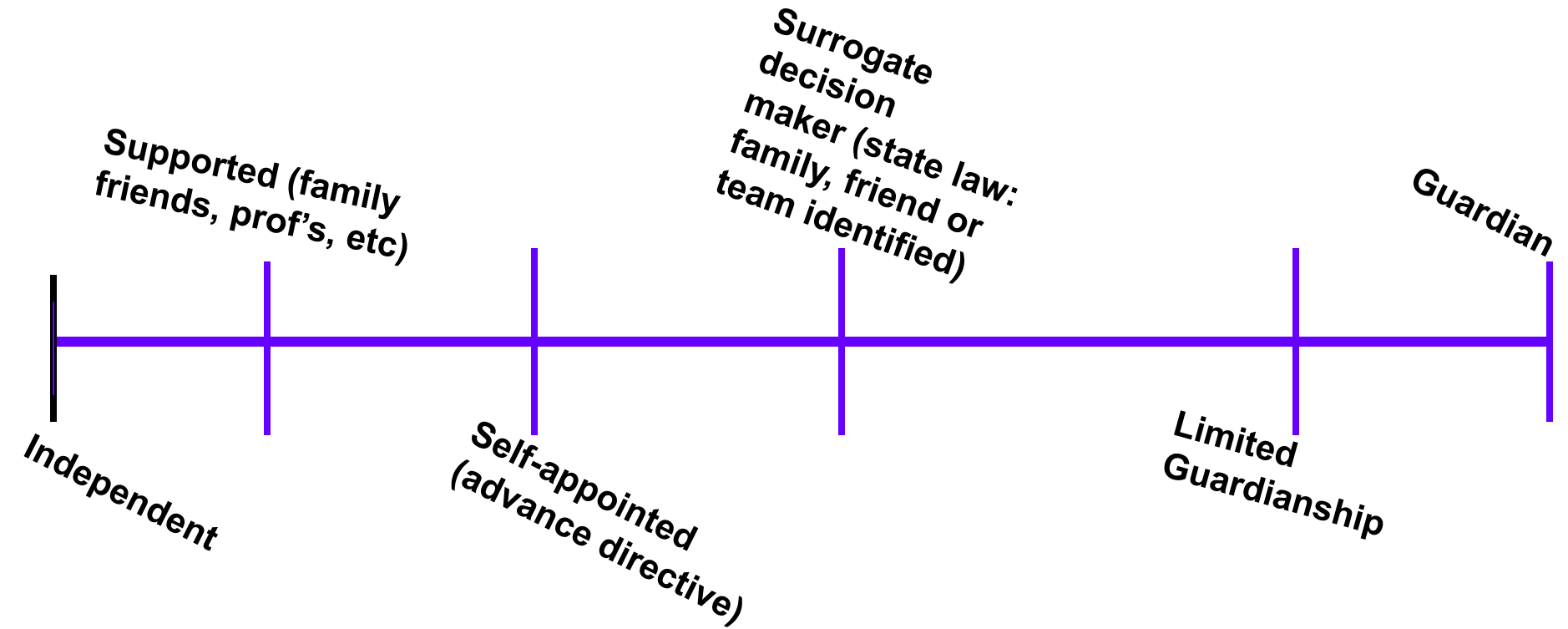


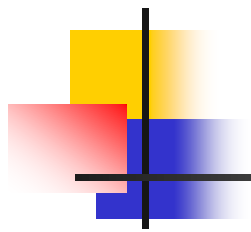
Medical Decision Making: Health Care and End of Life Decisions

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Continuum of Decisional Authority





PLAN

AHEAD !



Independent Decision Making

- Critical Question:
 - **Competent to do what?**
- Standard for Decision Making
 - Adult, with no appointed Guardian
 - Ability to understand/evaluate benefits, risks and alternatives
 - Ability to communicate voluntary decision



Independent Doesn't Mean Unsupported

Who can provide support?

- Friends and/or family
- Other people who have had procedure
- Professionals (different types)

Not much different than for most people making important health care decisions.



Advance Directive For Health Care

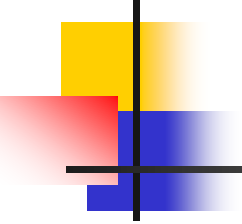
- Formerly “Health Care Power of Attorney” or “Living Will”
- Allows a person to pick a decision maker AND/OR give direction
- Need to have capacity, but a different level of capacity than making the healthcare decision itself
- Can be effective immediately or in the future
- Can be used for mental health purposes
- Five Wishes or state samples

Surrogate Decision Making

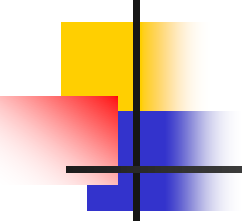


- Is there a friend, relative, or other person who can make the decision if the person can't consent or designated someone to consent?
 - Most states permit friend/relative; many states addressing agency or team roles
 - Scope of authority determined by state law
 - Again – a place to plan ahead

Limited Guardianship

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- Requires court intervention – time, cost, different players
 - Can limit the types of decisions examined by court
 - Why this may or may not be a good idea

Guardianship of the Person



- Effectively removes decision making authority from person for all major life decisions
- Court is the ultimate guardian and decision maker
 - Does the person meet the standard for a guardian?
 - Who should be appointed guardian?
 - What powers are delegated and which are retained for the court?