

This Weekly Newsletter
is brought to you by

HOOK LAW CENTER
Legal Power for Seniors

Tel: 757-399-7506
Fax: 757-397-1267

Locations:

Virginia Beach
295 Bendix Road, Suite 170
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Suffolk
5806 Harbour View Blvd.,
Suite 203
Suffolk, VA 23435

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Physicians Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST)

What is POST?

POST-Physicians Orders for Scope of Treatment- is a signed physician's order for medical care that follows, reflects and implements a patient's wishes about his/her health care in a document that travels across care settings. A patient's physician writes the POST order based on the patient's wishes as identified in discussions with the patient, his/her family, or a trained Certified Advanced Care Planning POST facilitator. POST provides a framework for care providers to put in place orders that ensure that patients who have a chronic, progressive illness or a serious health condition or who are medically frail receive the treatment they want and avoid those treatments they do not want.

POST (in some states call Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment or POLST) was first developed in the 1990s in response to concerns that Do Not Resuscitate Orders and Advance Directives do not assure that a patient's wishes for life-sustaining treatments are consistently understood and honored. To date, over 30 states have implemented or are in the process of implementing similar initiatives.

POST

- Gives seriously ill patients more control in their decision-making
- Stimulates conversations with patients and families to identify a patient's wishes in advance of an emotionally-charged situation
- Relieves families of the burden of guesswork or assumptions regarding care when a patient is no longer able to make those decisions

Physicians Orders for Scope of Treatment (POST) (con't.)

- Decreases a patient's suffering and promotes comfort during serious illness
- Uses a standardized format to set out specific procedural care decisions
- Is similar to Virginia's Durable DNR Order but addresses preferences about other treatment options-- not just CPR
- Is portable and transferable among care settings

POST does not:

- Deny patients treatment at the end of life
- Decrease patient choices

POST does not replace but complements an advance directive. An advance directive allows an individual to appoint the person they want to speak on their behalf and provides a broad outline of the individual's wishes relating to future care. However, advance directives are not physician orders and may not address the patient's specific current condition or may be unavailable when needed. POST enhances the effectiveness of the advance directive by identifying the patient's specific wishes on key medical decisions based on his/her current medical condition.



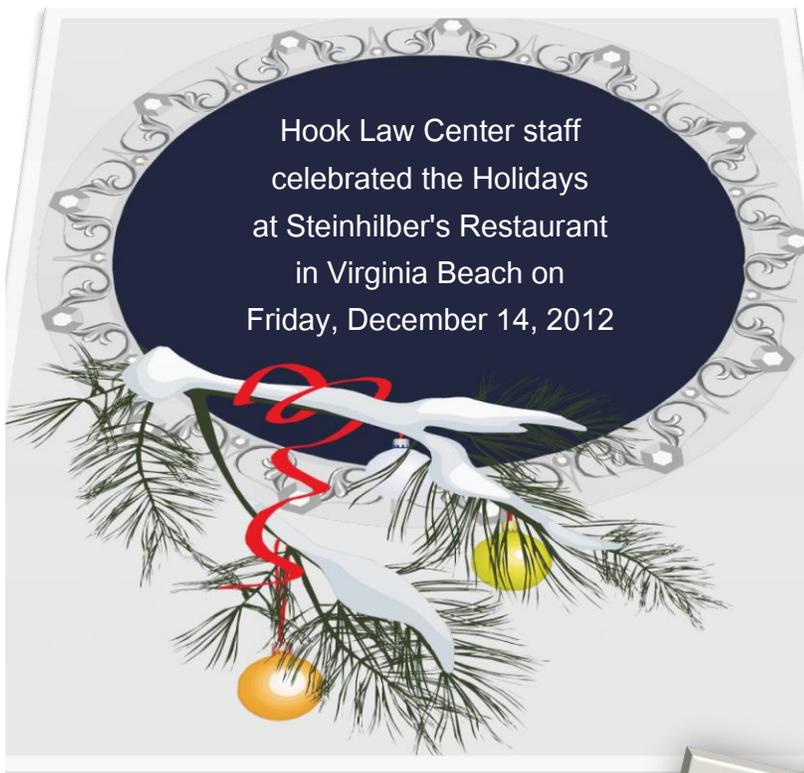
California Bans Hunting with Dog Packs

Hook Law Center: Kit Kat, has California really banned that horrible practice of hunting with dog packs?

Kit Kat: Yahoo!!! With California's ban on hounding that was just passed in September 2012, there are only 17 states that allow the practice of hounding. Hounding is a despicable method of hunting in which packs of dogs fitted with radio collars pursue such animals as bears, cougars, and bobcats. They pursue the animal until it is exhausted and seeks refuge, usually in a tree. Then, via the radio signal, the hunter knows just where to find the animal, and kill it.

California Bans Hunting with Dog Packs (con't.)

California deserves a lot of praise, because the hunting lobby tried to prevent the law against hounding from being passed. Thank goodness wiser heads prevailed, and the legislators listened to the public. I just can't imagine how anyone can think such a practice is fair or compassionate. It really seems to me that hounding could be considered a form of bullying. What hunter could take pride in getting an animal under those circumstances? Once again, in the end, reason and fairness have triumphed! ([ASPCA Action](#), Fall 2012, p. 7)



Upcoming Events

■ Hook Law Center is presenting a seminar on Long-Term Care and Estate Planning at Lake Prince Woods, 100 Anna Goode Way, Suffolk, VA 23435 on **January 25, 2013** at **2 p.m.** To r.s.v.p., please call 757- 923-5500 or 757-399-7506.

■ Hook Law Center will be speaking on the subject of Making an Elder Law Practice More Efficient at the VAELA Conference on **February 23, 2013** in Charlottesville, VA.



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