

Patients' Rights Syllabus

Summer 2009
Professor Tovino
Hamline University School of Law

Course Information

Course: Patients' Rights
Credits: 2
Classroom: Law 103
Day: June 15, 16, 17, and 18, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to Patients' Rights! This course examines the legal and ethical sources of patients' rights as well as the duties of patient advocates, ombudspersons, ethics committees, and risk management departments as they relate to patients' rights. Examples of issues that will be examined during class include, but certainly are not limited to, whether patients have the right to refuse to be examined and treated by medical and nursing students and residents; whether patients have a right to know their prognosis; whether patients have the right to know the HIV-status of their physicians; whether hospitals can prevent patients from leaving; whether patients have the right to videotape childbirth or other activities, treatments, or procedures in which they are involved; whether health care facilities such as nursing homes can videotape their residents' activities; whether patients in all health care facilities have the right to receive visitors and to associate with other patients; whether pregnant women have the right to be informed of the option of genetic counseling and screening; whether pregnant women can refuse to be tested for illegal drugs; whether pregnant women can elect to give birth at home; and whether patients can refuse to consent to autopsy prior to death. Many other issues relating to patients' rights will be introduced. The objectives of this course include understanding the legal and ethical sources of patients' rights and the legal duties of hospitals and other health care providers as they relate to such rights.

Course Materials

The required text is GEORGE J. ANNAS, THE RIGHTS OF PATIENTS, 3rd edition (either Southern Illinois University Press or New York University Press). Additional materials available through our Class Blog include: (1) four PowerPoint presentations, which will include references and links to relevant federal, Minnesota, and other state statutes and regulations; and (2) the most current version of this syllabus. The PowerPoint presentations are designed to structure class discussions and assist you with class preparation.

I will post the PowerPoint presentations to our Class Blog approximately one week prior to the beginning of class so that you have ample time to download and use the presentations for class preparation. I will not distribute a paper copy of the PowerPoint presentations in class. To access the PowerPoint and other course materials through our Class Blog, go to: <http://patientsrights09.blogspot.com/>.

Course Readings

Page numbers refer to GEORGE J. ANNAS, THE RIGHTS OF PATIENTS, 3rd edition (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004). Please do not be thrown by the length of the readings. The text is a paperback and is a quick and easy read. The author uses a very simple and straightforward 'question and answer' format to present and examine issues relating to patients' rights, and I will follow this format in class.

Date	Chapters	Reading Assignment
Mon., June 15, 2009	Preface; Patient Rights; The Patient Rights Advocate; Hospitals.	xv-xx; 1-27; 28-43; 63-88.
Tues., June 16, 2009	Emergency Medicine Informed Choice; Choices about Surgery and Children's Care; Reproductive Health.	89-112; 113-140; 141-167; 168-193.
Wed., June 17, 2009	Research; Medical Records; Privacy and Confidentiality.	194-223; 224-245; 246-272.
Thurs., June 18, 2009	Care of the Dying; Suffering, Pain, and Suicide; Death, Organ Donation, and Autopsy.	273-297; 298-315; 316-336.

Course Evaluation

I will base course grades entirely on one anonymous, two-hour, final examination which shall include 30 objective questions.

Course Attendance

At the beginning of each class, I will distribute a class roster for you to sign. If you are absent for more than eighty percent (80%) of our total in-class minutes, your absence will be treated as “excessive” in accordance with Hamline University School of Law Academic Rules.

Last Revised: April 12, 2009