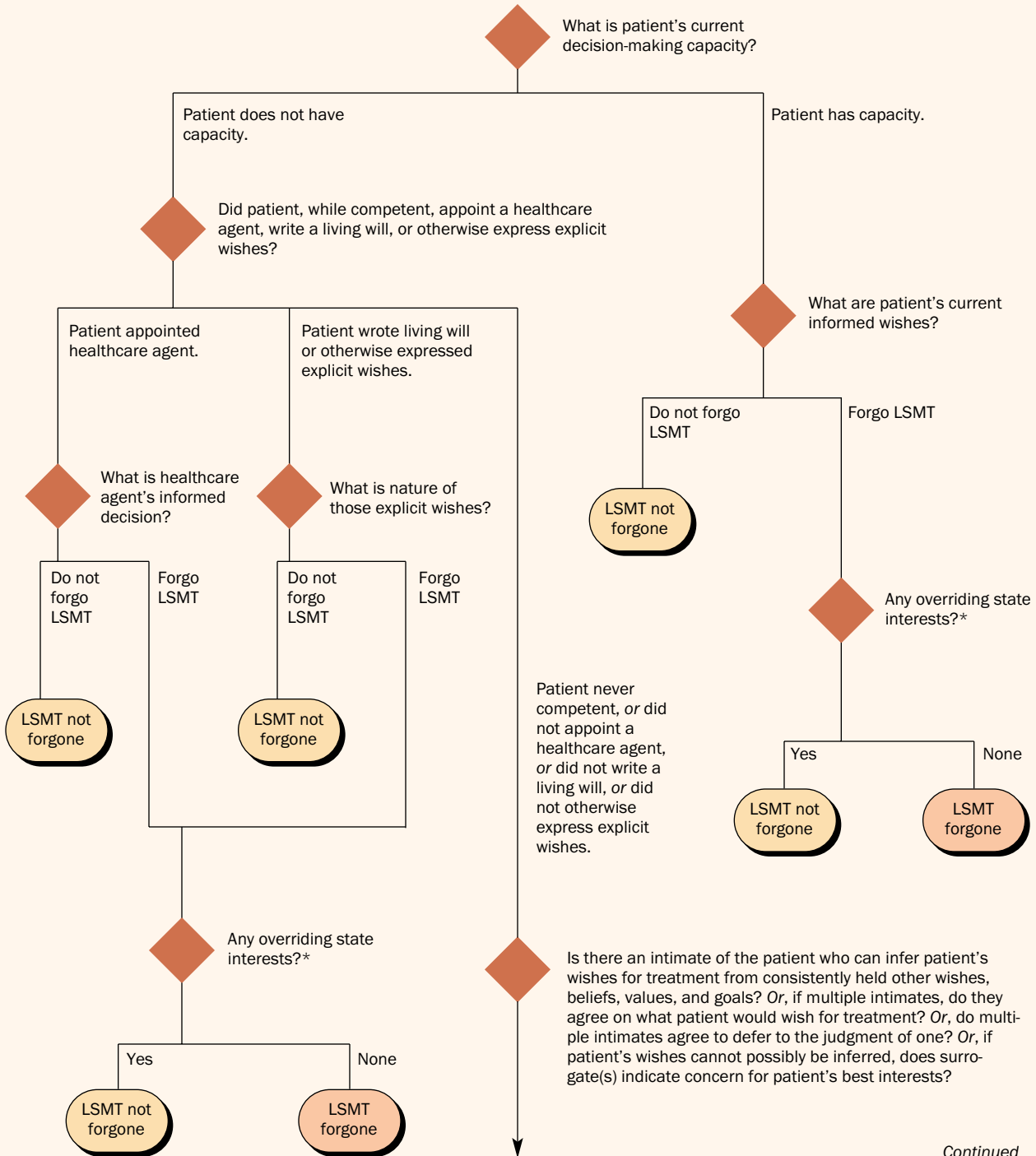
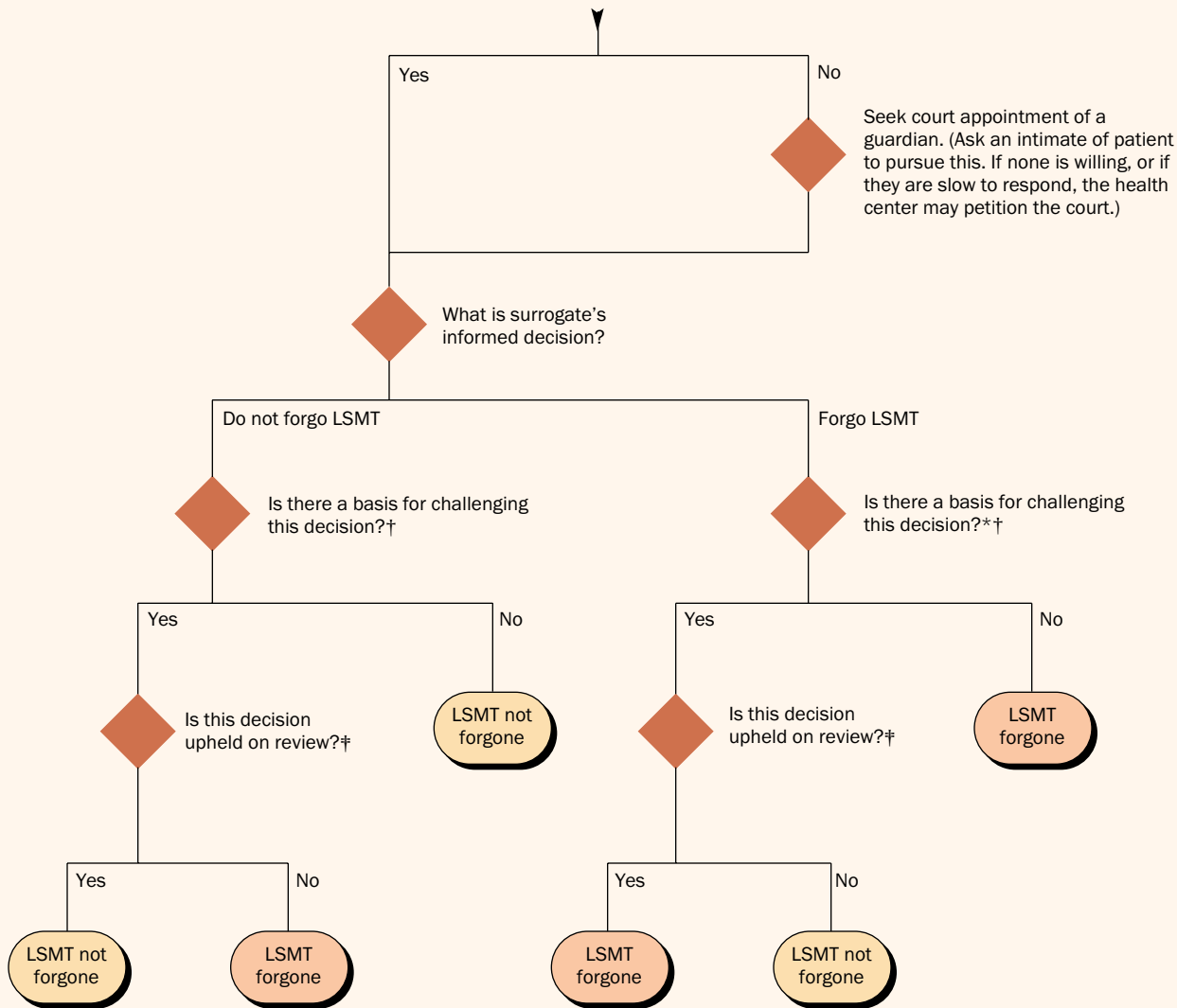


# DECISION TREE FOR LIFE-SUSTAINING MEDICAL TREATMENT (LSMT) FOR ADULTS



Continued

# DECISION TREE—CONT'D



Modified from *Guidelines for State Court Decision Making in Authorizing or Withholding Life-sustaining Medical Treatment*, National Center for State Courts, West Publishing, St. Paul, MN, 1991.

\* Overriding state interests could be the preservation of life, the prevention of suicide or homicide, the need to uphold the conscience (integrity) of the healthcare providers, or the interests of minor children. Note that the "conscience" of a healthcare facility would be found in its mission and philosophy statements and in its policies.

† In addition to state interests, other bases for challenging a decision would include evidence of conflict of interest on the part of the surrogate(s), questionable capacity of the surrogate(s), questions about the commitment of the surrogate(s) to this decision, or concerns that conflict among the surrogates is insufficiently resolved.

‡ Review should first be sought among the key decision makers. Any or all of these persons may request the assistance of other healthcare providers (e.g., nurses, physicians, psychologists), other friends of the patient or surrogate(s), other resource persons (e.g., social workers, chaplains, ministers), hospital administrators, an ethicist, or an ad hoc committee composed of any of these persons. As a last resort, if the issue remains unresolved, recourse may be made to the courts.