

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING



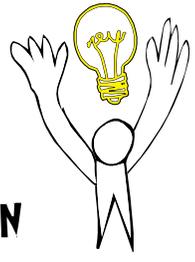
IT'S MY DECISION.
I CHOOSE X



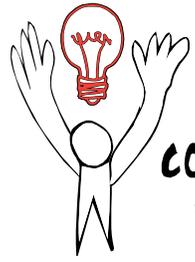
INFORMED DECISIONS ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ SELF-DETERMINATION



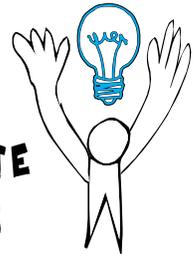
GATHER AND EXPLAIN INFORMATION



REVIEW ALL OF YOUR OPTIONS



MAKE OR COMMUNICATE DECISIONS



EXCITING! EMPOWERING!
>> A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO GUARDIANSHIP <<

SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
EMPOWERS PEOPLE
TO MAKE THEIR OWN INFORMED DECISIONS

IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?



YES, THAT IS WHAT I WANT!

Visit these websites to find out more about
Supported Decision-Making:
www.supporteddecisions.org
www.supporteddecisionmaking.org

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

What is it? Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is a way to get help making decisions while maintaining your right to make your own decisions. The Rhode Island (RI) General Assembly passed legislation in 2019 that was signed into law by the Governor on July 8, 2019. Below are links to the Senate and House bills:

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText19/SenateText19/S0031A.pdf>

<http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText19/SenateText19/S0031A.pdf>

In 2016, a Coalition was formed to promote SDM for RI. Members now include Advocates in Action, the Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Community Provider Network of RI (CPN-RI), the Cross Disability Coalition, Disability Rights Rhode Island, Personal Lifetime Advocacy Networks of RI (PLAN-RI), the RI Developmental Disabilities Council, the RI Parent Information Network, and the Sherlock Center. (Other groups also supported SDM for RI.) The Coalition is developing training materials and conducting trainings in an effort to help implement SDM in RI. Please check our Coalition members' websites for training materials and training announcements.

How does it work? The person who needs or may need help with making decisions chooses a person or team of persons (called a supporter or supporters) to assist with decision-making. The person who needs help completes an SDM Agreement form to establish the SDM relationship. The person who needs help and the supporter/s sign the agreement. The SDM Agreement explains that the supporter/s may not make the decisions, but may help the person with the decision-making process. Then, when faced with a decision they need help with, the person works with the supporter/s to: gather information; review options; and/or, make or communicate decisions.

Who can use it? Adults with disabilities who need or may need help with decision-making can use SDM.

Why do we like it? SDM helps individuals to make and sometimes communicate their own decisions about their lives rather than someone else making decisions for them. It also gives individuals decision-making support as may be necessary. It protects independence, choice and self-determination.

What can you do? Learn more about SDM and decide whether SDM is right for you. We included links to the new law above and some illustrations and websites about SDM on the other side of this flyer to help. Check Coalition members' websites for training materials and upcoming trainings. Call Coalition members if you have questions or need further assistance.