



Supported Decision Making

"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Overview

In many cases, guardianship may not be necessary, and a less restrictive alternative may be more appropriate for the individual. Supported Decision Making Agreements are alternatives to guardianships. They allow individuals with disabilities to make choices about their own lives with support from a team of people they select to assist them in making certain decisions.

SDM Facts

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Empowers who? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals with disabilities who can make decisions to use available support to make their own choices and live a self-directed, independent life |
| What kind of decisions? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial ● Large Purchases ● Medical ● End of Life ● Day to Day Tasks |
| Possible Support Team Members: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Family ● Friends ● Professionals |
| How to Implement: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SDM agreements put the decision-making supports in writing so that the person and whomever they have chosen as their supporters understand how the relationship will work ● SDM agreements don't need to be filed in court in order to be effective and can be provided to third parties such as doctors and service providers |
| Sample Documents: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Download Fillable Sample Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Agreement ● Download Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Form (Supporter Addendum) |

Relevant Resources

Representative Payee:

[🌐 Representative Payee Program - When People Need Help Managing Their M...](#)

General Power of Attorney Document:

[🌐 Indiana General Power of Attorney Form](#)

My 5 Wishes:

<https://www.fivewishes.org>

Supportive Decision Making - Indiana

[🌐 Supported Decision-Making](#)