

# Supported Decision-Making

## What is it?

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is a possible alternative to guardianship. They have it in Canada and Texas and are trying it out in Massachusetts. We have formed a coalition, including Advocates in Action, the Alliance for Better Long Term Care, CPN-RI, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Disability Law Center, RIPIN, and the Sherlock Center, to promote using SDM for RI.

## How does it work?

The person who needs or may need help with making decisions chooses a person or team of persons to assist with decision making. The person who needs help works with the supporter or team of supporters to: gather information; review options; or, make or communicate decisions. A special form called a Supported Decision-Making Agreement must be completed. The Supported Decision-Making Agreement explains that the supporter may not make the decisions, but may help the person with the decision-making process.

## Who can use it?

Individuals with disabilities, elders, or anyone who needs help with decision-making can use it.

## Why do we like it?

It helps individuals to make and communicate their own decisions about their lives rather than someone else making decisions for them. It gives individuals support to get the information they need and think about it in order to make their own decision. It protects independence, choice and self-determination.

## What can you do?

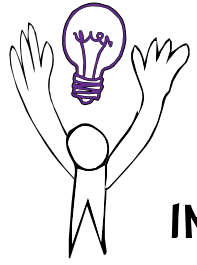
- Learn more about it. We included some illustrations and a few websites about SDM on the reverse side of this flyer to help you get started.
- Share what you learn with others who might be interested.
- Offer to be a part of our coalition to promote it for Rhode Island.



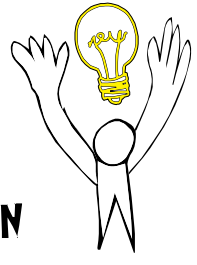
**SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING**



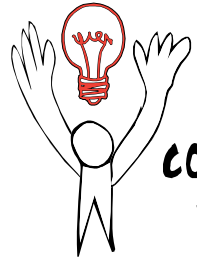
**INFORMED DECISIONS ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ SELF-DETERMINATION**



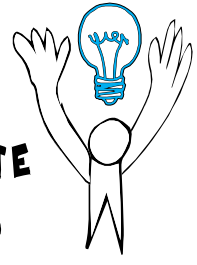
**GATHER AND EXPLAIN INFORMATION**



**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](http://www.supporteddecisions.org)  
[www.supporteddecisionmaking.org](http://www.supporteddecisionmaking.org)