

Supported Decision-Making

What is it?

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) is a possible alternative to guardianship. They have had it for years in Canada and now have it in Texas, Delaware and other states, and are trying it out in Massachusetts and elsewhere. We have formed a Coalition to promote SDM for Rhode Island (RI). Founding members include Advocates in Action, the Alliance for Better Long Term Care, CPN-RI, the RI Developmental Disabilities Council, the RI Disability Law Center, RIPIN, and the Sherlock Center. New members are welcome. Legislation was submitted during the 2018 legislative session to establish SDM in RI; we expect it to be resubmitted for the 2019 session.

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 completes a special form to establish the SDM 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 the person works with the supporter or team of supporters to: gather information; review options; or, make or communicate decisions.

Who can use it?

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

Why do we like it?

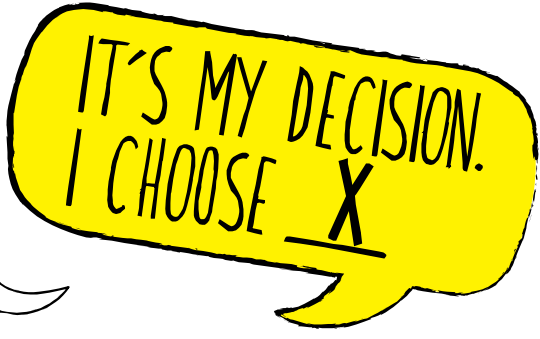
SDM helps individuals to make and communicate their own decisions about their lives rather than someone else making decisions for them. It also gives individuals support to get the information they need, review the information and possible decisions, and make or express the decision. It protects independence, choice and self-determination.

What can you do?

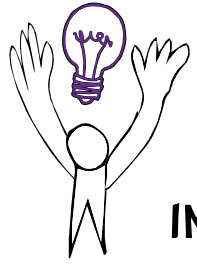
- Learn more about SDM. We included some illustrations and websites about SDM on the reverse side of this flyer to help you get started.
- Talk SDM up and/or join our Coalition to help us to promote it for RI. 10-2018



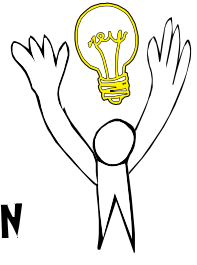
SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING



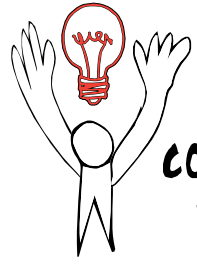
INFORMED DECISIONS ♦ INDEPENDENCE ♦ SELF-DETERMINATION



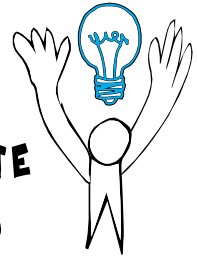
GATHER AND EXPLAIN INFORMATION



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
www.supporteddecisionmaking.org