

Supported Decision-Making

Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship through which people with disabilities get help from trusted family members, friends and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they can make their own decisions. Supported Decision-Making enables people with disabilities to ask for support where and when they need it.

Supported Decision-Making Agreements can be used for many kinds of decisions including medical, financial, housing and other life matters. Powers of attorney, representative payees and simple release of information forms can also help families provide the needed supports and safeguards without going to court and imposing guardianship restrictions.



Supporting Individuals to Live Full lives Keeping Them in Charge:

- DPI now has information on Supported Decision Making and alternatives to Guardianship in the Post-secondary transition planning (PTP) tool.
- We are seeing indications that the numbers of guardianships in WI are going down but don't have definitive info on that.
- BPDD is on the WI WINGS Steering committee: WINGS stands for Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders. WINGS is part of a national movement for improving guardianship and conservatorship practices.
- BPDD held two statewide Supported Decision Making training with 700 people in attendance from around the state.
- Over 7000 booklets distributed statewide
- 2 Adult Protective Service agencies have included and referred parents to Supported Decision Making information as an alternative to guardianship.

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We wanted our son to have the chance to grow and learn to make decisions that affect his life. As his parents, we won't always be around to guide him, and we didn't want to restrict his life and future happiness. So, we chose not to pursue guardianship and instead to develop a circle of supporters to help him make those big decisions in life.”-- Parent

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