

Definitions Regarding Supported Decision Making

Definitions created in collaboration with students from American University's Disability Rights Law Clinic

Guardianship

Guardianship takes a person with a disability's decision-making rights and gives them to another person. These decisions can be about healthcare, education, housing, money, and more.



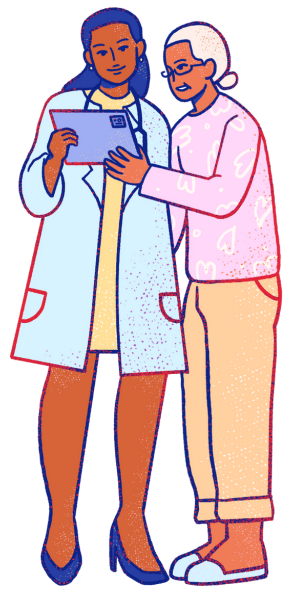
Power of Attorney

Power of Attorney lets you share your right to make life decisions with someone else. Unlike guardianships, power of attorney lets both you and another person make important life choices for you. You get to choose what kinds of life choices the person with power of attorney can make for you—examples include: choices about money, housing, education, and more.



Medical Power of Attorney

A Medical Power of Attorney shares the ability to make decisions for you at the doctor's office or hospital.



Power of attorney isn't just for people with disabilities. Anyone can give power of attorney to someone else who they trust.



Supported Decision Making

Supported Decision Making Agreements let you talk with your friends and family about decisions in your life. It is a formal agreement but not a legal process.

Advanced Directive

An Advance Directive is a form that tells your doctors and your decision makers what you would want if you were in the hospital and were not able to tell people what you want for any reason.



Least Restrictive Option

A least restrictive option is one that allows you to have the most freedom as possible. This is a concept widely supported and encouraged by those within the Disability community.