

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING (SDM)

WHAT IS SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING (SDM)?

A way to accommodate the decision-making process so a person can retain as much independence and self-determination as possible.

WHO CAN USE SDM?

Anyone can use the principles of SDM to help with decision-making: those wanting to use a formalized SDM agreement should understand the nature of the document and their supporters role.

WHO IS A SUPPORTER?

The person using SDM chooses a supporter, the areas of his or her life where support is needed, and how he or she wants support to be given. "Supporters" are people that help the person in good faith and as directed in the agreement. The person makes the ultimate decision.

WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS?

The person makes his or her own decisions. The supporter's job is only to help the person with the decision-making process.

HOW IS SDM CREATED?

A valid SDM Agreement must meet the requirements in Indiana Law (Ind. code § 29-3-14-1) et.seq). It must be signed by the person in the presence of a notary.

WHAT AREAS DOES SDM COVER?

The person chooses the areas where support is needed. It can be anything including decisions relating to health, where to live, employment, or finances.

CAN SDM BE REVOKED?

The person can change supporters, areas of support or get rid of their agreement. A SDM Agreement also terminates if the person dies or all the supporters withdraw or are removed.

Diana’s Journey: What is the best choice to help Diana in her decision-making? Consulting with an attorney knowledgeable about the different options can help increase her understanding about her choices, some of which are listed below. See where supported decision-making fits into the decision-making process.

LESS
LIMITING

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING



Diana makes her own decisions with the help of another person of her choosing.

”I make the decision myself with the help of my supporter.”

POWER OF ATTORNEY



Diana names someone else to make decisions and act on her behalf.

”I appoint Bob to make decision for me.”

GUARDIANSHIP



Court



Court appoints a person to make decisions for Diana with court oversight

”The court has given Bob the power to make decisions for me.”

Infographic adapted from