

SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING



WHAT IS SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING?



People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) should be able to make their own decisions whenever possible.

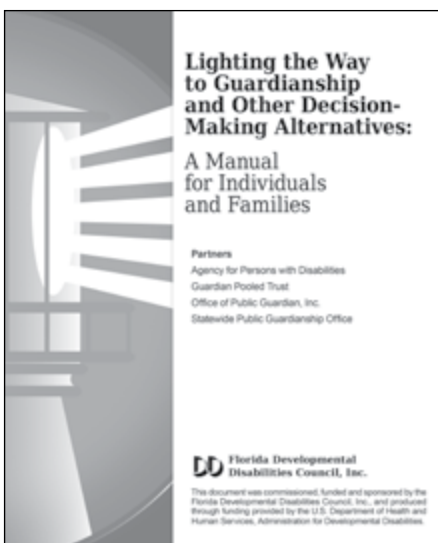
In Florida, when people with I/DD turn 18, their families are often told to seek **guardianship**. This means someone else will make decisions for the person with I/DD. Guardianships remove rights.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) helps families consider different options. Guardianship is not always the best solution.

Supported Decision Making means that people with I/DD can make their own decisions with the help of people they trust.

Supported Decision Making has been successful in 8 other states and Washington D.C.

FDDC believes Supported Decision Making is a good solution for many people. FDDC created a booklet to explain guardianship and Supported Decision Making. It is called “Lighting the Way to Guardianship.”





Supported Decision Making may provide people with I/DD with a better quality of life.

It can help with:

- Better success in jobs and careers.
- More involvement in the community.
- Protection against possible abuse or neglect.

WHAT'S NEXT?

FDDC recommends the following steps to make Supported Decision Making the first choice for people with I/DD.

1. Make sure Florida laws show other choices besides guardianship.
2. Make sure Florida judges have complete information about Supported Decision Making.
3. Require people asking for guardianship to show why other solutions will not work.
4. Keep the Supported Decision Making process simple and free of excess paperwork.

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
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