

# Decision Making Supports

## Guardianship and Supported Decision Making What's the Difference?

Not all adults with disabilities need a guardian once they turn 18. Supported Decision Making (SDM) is a different approach that can be used. SDM helps people understand and make informed choices with the necessary support and resources, promoting their independence and autonomy.

### Using Supported Decision Making Means...

- You maintain all your legal rights.
- You choose who supports you and how.
- There is no cost to choose someone as a supporter.
- No requirement to report to the court.
- You make all your decisions, with support.



### Having a Guardian Means...



- A judge may assign your legal rights to a guardian.
- Your guardian will make certain decisions for you.
- Legal process costs between \$3,000 and \$5,000.
- Significant life changes must be reported to the court.
- Your guardian should encourage your independence and self-reliance.

There are a wide range of decision making supports  
and it is important to know you have options!