

What is Supported Decision-Making?

Easy-Read



WEST VIRGINIA
EMPOWERED & ABLE!

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Everyone has the right to make their own decisions



I can make decisions!

Sometimes people need help or support to make their own decisions



I have the right to choose what kind and how much support I get with decision-making.

“Supported Decision-Making” means people assist those with disabilities to make choices about their own lives.



I may need help with deciding where to live.



I may need help with deciding what to do during the day.



I may need help deciding how to spend or save my money.



I may need help with deciding when to see a doctor.



I may need help with choosing my friends or partner.



Having the supports to make decisions is a human right.

The person who will help me is called my "supporter".



I have the right to pick who I want to support me.



I have the right to learn from trying things.

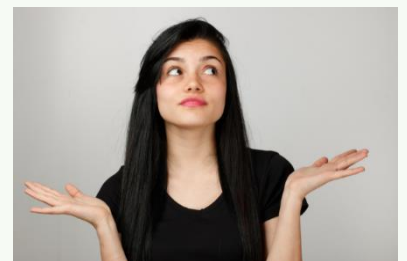


I have the right to make unwise decisions.

Good supporters give advice, respect the wishes of the person with a disability, and suggests ways to make the wishes happen.



I have the right to be informed about the good and bad that could come with a decision.



I have the right to change my mind.



People that I pick to support me should respect me!



One kind of support I can use is a TEAM of people.



I can also meet with people ONE-TO-ONE to discuss my issues.

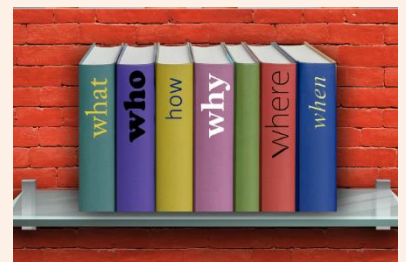
There are many different kinds of support in Supported Decision-Making



It is my right to use whatever I need to communicate – my voice, by writing it down, recording a video or using a communication device.



I can tell my supporters what I want by doing these things in person, on the phone, or by email.



Details about choices must be given to me in a way that I understand it.



I know I have to be clear about what decision must be made, and that is why my supporters are there for me.



I know there could be more than one decision that needs to be made, but I should focus on one at a time.

There are many important steps in making decisions



I will need to gather information so I understand the choices.



I will have to pick the supporter who can best help me in this area.



I want my supporter to know what is important to me.



My supporter should know what choices I like to make for myself.

Being a “Supporter” is an important job and it is important for the supporters to understand their role.



If asked, my supporter may need to explain my decision to others.

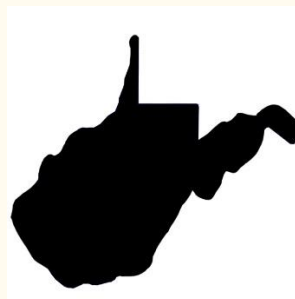


I may have to sign a form to let others know that someone is helping me.

Some people may think that people with disabilities should not make decisions for themselves.

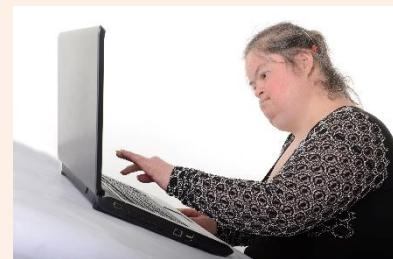


I will speak up for myself and my right to make decisions!



I can learn the laws that explain what is allowed in West Virginia.

A Supported Decision-Making Agreement should be put in writing and signed by the person with a disability and everyone who is a supporter.



I know that I can use forms and documents to help me take part in making decisions, even if I someone else is my guardian.



I need to keep a copy of the agreement and review it sometimes



I am the expert of my own life!

For More Information Contact Astrive Advocacy, Inc.

www.astrive.org

www.facebook.com/astriveadvocacy