

Center Stage: Bringing Supported Decision Making into the Spotlight

*Make Your
Mark! Conference*

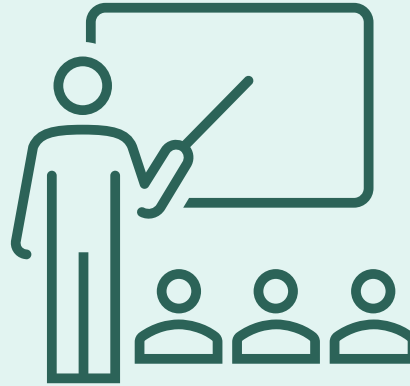
September 16, 2026



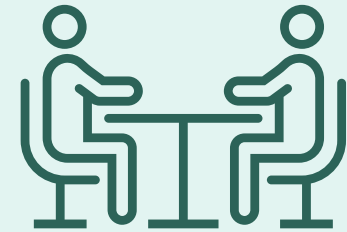
Objectives



**What is Supported
Decision Making?**



**Why is Supported
Decision Making
Important?**



**How to use
Supported Decision
Making?**

What is Supported Decision Making (SDM)?

- Person Centered
- Voluntary
- For Anyone!



Why is Supported Decision Making Important?

Alternative to Guardianship



Encourages Choice & Control



Increases Protection



Uses Natural Decision Making Processes

How does Supported Decision Making Work?

- Decision Maker chooses Supporters
- Agree on Supporter roles, communication preferences, and boundaries
- Develop written SDM Agreement if desired
- Make decisions
- Change things as needed



Starring
Role:

Jake



Who can
be a
Decision
Maker?

ANYONE!



Who can
be a
Supporter?

ANYONE the Decision Maker chooses!



How many
Supporters
are
needed?

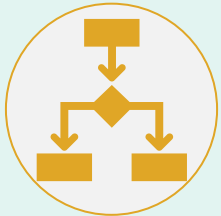
As **MANY** as the Decision Maker chooses!



How do Supporters Assist?



Gather information



Discuss the options



Communicate the decision to others

Best Practices for Supporters



**Get to know the
Decision Maker**



**One decision at
a time**



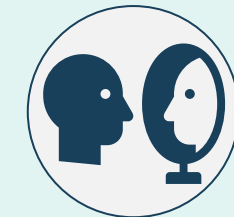
**Give time &
space**



**Help the
Decision Maker
work through
risk**



**Make
information
accessible**



**Remember, it's
the Decision
Maker's life**

Useful Tools for Supported Decision Making

- All About Me
- Release of Information
- Written SDM agreement
- Power of Attorney (POA)



Partners

Bridging Aging & Disability Networks Initiative
Supported Decision Making Demonstration Project



y ing
Decision Making?



Questions?

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