

Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Resources

Compiled by Morgan K. Whitlatch

Legal Director, Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

(with additions by David Hutt)

National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making (2014 to present)

- Initially funded by the Administration for Community Living.
- Clearing house for Supported Decision Making materials and funded a number of pilot projects.

National Guardianship Association, “Position Statement on Guardianship, Surrogate Decision-Making, and Supported Decision-Making” (2016)

- States that SDM should be considered before guardianship and incorporated as part of the guardianship, if guardianship is necessary.

AAIDD & Arc, “Joint Position Statement on Autonomy, Decision-Making Supports, and Guardianship” (2016)

- Promotes less restrictive means of decision-making support, including SDM.

Social Security Advisory Board, “Representative Payees: A Call to Action” (2016)

- States SSA should consider SDM as an alternative to appointing a representative payee

American Bar Association, PRACTICAL Tool and Resource Guide (2016)

- Helps lawyers identify and implement decision-making options that are less restrictive than guardianship, including SDM.

U.S. Department of Education, OSERS, “A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities” (2017)

- Recognized SDM and other less-restrictive decision-making support for adult students in special education.

Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Acts (2017)

- Model law that, among other things, formally recognizes SDM and requires its consideration as a less-restrictive alternative to guardianship.

American Bar Association Resolution 113 (2017)

- Urges legislatures to amend their guardianship statutes to require SDM “be identified and fully considered as a less restrictive alternative before guardianship is imposed” and a grounds for termination of guardianship.

National Council on Disability, “Beyond Guardianship: Towards Alternatives that Promote Greater Self-Determination of People with Disabilities”(March 2018)

- Discusses civil rights implications of guardianship and alternatives, including their impact on older adults with disabilities. Recommends expansion of SDM at state/local level.

United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, “Ensuring Trust: Strengthening State Efforts to Overhaul the Guardianship Process and Protect Older Adults” (Nov. 2018)

- Recommends, among other reforms, state promotion of less-restrictive alternatives to guardianship, including SDM.

SDM and Medical Care (February 2010)

- Resources developed by NDRN and DRTX under funding from the WITH Foundation for how SDM can be used for persons with disabilities in the health care context.

Supported Decision Making.org

- Numerous resources compiled on SDM by the Center for Public Representation.