Capacity Connections

Supported Decision-Making

The Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act provides for a variety of decision-making options to allow adults to be as autonomous as possible when making personal decisions. One of those decision-making options, supported decision-making, is for adults who are fully capable of making their own decisions but due to various circumstances would like another person to assist them. With a supported decision-making agreement in place, your doctor, pharmacist, care facility manager, etc. can speak directly with your supporter and discuss information that’s considered personal. You still make your own decisions but your supporter can help you gather information and communicate your questions, wants, and decisions.

Once authorized by the supported adult, the supporter has legal authority to:

1. Access, collect or obtain from any person any information relevant to a personal decision that has to be made.
2. Assist the supported adult in making a decision
3. Communicate or assist in communicating the decision to others

Writing a supported decision-making order can be done quickly and simply by completing the form found on CompassionNET or the Alberta Human Services website http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/opg-guardianship-form-opg5557.pdf There are no documents to submit and once signed and witnessed it becomes a legal documents. The supported adult can name 1-3 people to act on their behalf. The arrangement can be terminated at any time by completing A Termination of Supported Decision-making Authorization.

If your team encounters difficulty or has questions please contact the Mentoring Team Members at your site. If your site does not have a contact you can direct questions to:

Tara Kilkenny, OT
Capacity Assessment Support Service
780 735-2390

Visit CompassionNET > Care and Safety > Capacity Assessment > Legal Forms & Schedules for more information