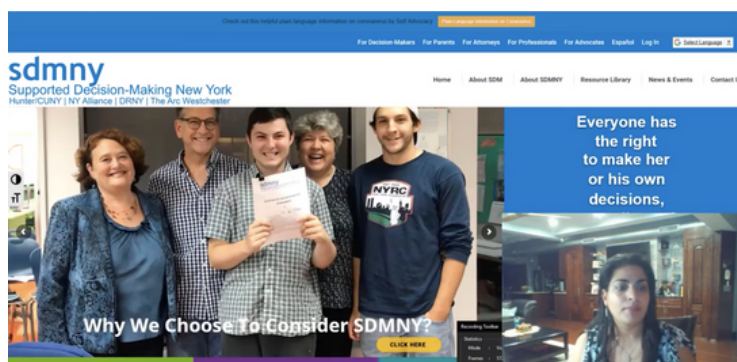




SDM and SDMNY make it to the NYS court website

We frequently note how helpful our Advisory Council (AC) has been to SDMNY, and AC member Irini Bekhit has now given us another reason to be grateful. Irini is a Court Attorney in Surrogate’s Court, Richmond County (Staten Island) and the Supervisor of its Guardianship department. She visited us about two years ago, seeking to learn more about what she had heard was an alternative to guardianship--SDM. She was so persuaded by our work that, with the Surrogate’s approval, she instituted information sessions on alternatives, including SDM, for people who were seeking Article 17-A guardianship for family members and loved ones. With courts mostly operating virtually, prospective petitioners are now required to watch a video of Irini’s info session before they can file for guardianship .

In partnership with the court system, the video is now on the statewide uniform court system website under “Guardianship for a Disabled Person“. Not only does Irini talk about SDM, she actually screen shares the SDMNY website home page, and encourages people to contact us! You can see the video (we’re a few minutes in) by clicking [here](#).



Inclusion on the court website means that the message of SDM will reach many more people, and at a crucial time in the lives of their loved ones with I/DD. It is also a tremendous validation of our work from a critical stakeholder.

**From all of us at SDMNY
Thank you, Irini!**