


SDMNY


Ensuring the right of New Yorkers with I/DD
to make their own decisions since 2016

What is Supported Decision-Making?



Supported decision-making (SDM) is now a well recognized practice by which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can make their own decisions with the support of trusted persons in their lives and retain all their legal and civil rights. On July 26, 2022 Governor Kathy Hochul signed New York's Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act that ensures the self-determination, autonomy and dignity of people with I/DD. As SDMNY has shown, SDM is useful and available for Decision-Makers who are as diverse as the population of New York.


The SDMNY Project



Supported Decision-Making New York (SDMNY) began as a 6-year project initially funded by the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC), to pilot the use of SDM to divert persons at risk of guardianship, and to restore rights to persons already subject to guardianship. In March of 2022 SDMNY began work on a large grant from Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) to create a model for delivering SDM facilitation services state-wide over the next 3 years. The project's goal is to make SDM facilitation available across NY State to all persons with I/DD who want more control over their decision-making, regardless of ability to pay.

For a preview of supported decision-making, watch the video, "[Why SDM?](#)"

SDMNY Facilitation



SDMNY utilizes trained facilitators to work with the person with I/DD (the decision-maker) in a 3-phase process, helping (the decision-maker) to identify areas in which they want support for decision-making, choose trusted people as supporters, and work to create a written Supported Decision-Making Agreement. The Agreement can be modified throughout the decision-maker's lifetime to reflect important decisions as the person grows and changes.