



## Supported Decision-Making Agreements

### What is Supported Decision-Making?

Supported decision-making means a person with a disability can get help when making important life decisions. You can get assistance in areas like deciding on where to live, finding a job, pursuing education, and managing your finances. You choose a trusted family member or friend to be your supporter.

Arizona passed a [supported decision-making law](#) in June 2023. Now, individuals in Arizona can enter into supported decision-making agreements.

### Why is Supported Decision-Making Important?

Supported decision-making is an alternative to guardianship and it allows you to receive the support you need to make decisions. A guardianship arrangement can be very limiting. With supported decision-making, you keep your individual rights and your independence.

### What Are Some Things Supporters Help With?

Supporters can play multiple roles. Supporters can help gather information. For example, a supporter can help gather information about classes if the individual wants to pursue education. Supporters can help explain complex concepts, like medical treatments and procedures. The supporter can help gather information on where to live or work. Supporters can help gather important documentation like applying for public assistance. The supporter can also communicate with a landlord or a social services provider for you and make sure your choices are respected.

### How Can I Create a Supported Decision-Making Agreement?

You can create a supported decision-making agreement by choosing a supporter and signing an agreement. In the agreement, you can choose what types of decisions you would like help with. The agreement must be in writing. You and your supporter must sign the agreement in front of two witnesses or a notary. The agreement lasts as long as you want it to, and you can end the agreement at any time.

### Where Can I Learn More?

Call The Arc of Arizona at **(602) 234-2721** or visit [The Arc of Arizona Website](#). You can also contact Disability Rights Arizona (DRAZ) at **(602) 274-6287** or visit the [DRAZ Website](#).