

# SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING BOOT CAMP



"Do I **HAVE** to get conservatorship?"

On October 13, 2018, we'll help you answer that question in a **FREE** all day training\*.

\*Space is limited so you must register to attend.

**WHERE:** The Arc of Alameda

1101 Walpert St.  
Hayward, CA 94541

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**WHEN:** 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
October 13, 2018

or call (916) 552-6619

Parents face this question day after day, as their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities get older. Some people think they have no choice, that conservatorship is their only option.

**It doesn't always have to be that way.**

We'll teach you about Supported Decision-Making, a way for people with disabilities to make their own decisions and direct their own lives, with the help of their friends, family, and professionals. We'll show you how you can help your children and the people in your life get the supports and services they need to lead their best possible lives.

Join us for a day of information and answers, presented by Suzanne Bennett Francisco: parent, advocate, and author of Supported Decision-Making Teams: Setting the Wheels in Motion, a nationally recognized guide for parents and families.

Presented By:



Sponsored By:



# SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING ALTERNATIVES TO CONSERVATORSHIP

EVERYONE has the RIGHT to make CHOICES.

Often people with a disability are unnecessarily conserved when they turn 18. For years, conservatorship has been the only option offered to parents and supporters of people with a disability. Conservatorship is a court process where a judge decides whether to remove your right to make choices about your social and marital relationships, health, housing, education, finances, records and contracts as well as other personal needs and interests. The court can appoint a stranger with no knowledge about disabilities as the conservator. *But wait . . . there are ways to address common concerns that are simpler, less expensive, and less restrictive than conservatorship.*

**Supported Decision-Making (SDM)** is “a recognized alternative to guardianship through which people with disabilities use friends, family members, and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they make their own decisions” to the maximum of their unique abilities. (Blanck & Martinis, 2015).

The individual chooses a Circle of Support, or a SDM Team, to address decision-making areas of need according to the person’s distinctive skills.

## Who can practice Supported Decision-Making (SDM)?

Even those with the *most significant disabilities* can practice SDM through a support team that empowers them to make choices. Those with low support needs as well as those who may need more extensive assistance have the right to make decisions. Each person is unique in their decision-making abilities. Likewise, people’s personal preferences and priorities take different shape. Wherever possible, people with disabilities deserve respect, autonomy, accommodations and support. Moreover, parents and supporters are no longer alone within the SDM paradigm which centers on building a team who listen to and assist the individual. Decision-making skills are not stagnant; they build over time.

## How can we empower people with disabilities to make choices and be self-determined?

Stripping away rights does not protect an individual; however, evidence shows that skills-building paired with supports can. Study after study shows that people who practice self-determination – including women with intellectual disability – are better able to recognize and resist abuse, thus, avoiding a learned helplessness. **If a person needs some support to make decisions, does that mean they cannot make any decisions?** Of course, not. We *all* need help.

**RIGHTS=CHOICE=SELF DETERMINATION=SAFETY=EVERYONE BENEFITS!**

Presented By:



Sponsored By:

