

# IPMG Professional Development Workshop: An Introduction to Supported Decision Making

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## Question and Answer

**Q: Will the slides be available? There is language I appreciate and would like to be able to review for future use**

A: Yes, the slides and recording of the presentation, and all IPMG Professional Development Workshops, are available on IPMG's website. [www.gotoipmg.com](http://www.gotoipmg.com), within 2 business days of the training.

**Q: When an individual (with and without a guardian) chooses to be sexually active, but the parents and most of the team don't believe this is appropriate, how does a Case Manager advocate for the individuals choice?**

A: The first obligation of a family or parent is to protect their loved one. However, it should be the right of each individual to make choices, both good and bad. Unless a person has been found to be unable to make any choices, or it involves abuse or harm to that Individual, it should not be up to another person to make relationship choices for that person. There have been legal cases on this very topic. **Please note that IPMG will be hosting a PDW in May on this topic.**

**Q: Hard question to ask , and hoping I am asking it correctly because this situation is on the rise in this country and increasing daily....How does one help or protect a naive, loving caring, intellectually challenged person from (diagnose or un-diagnosed) Narcissistic Personality disordered professionals, scam artist, people etc. ?**

A: This is a very common question: How can we make sure the person is not exploited or is protected? The answer is that we can't, even in supported decision making and actual guardianship. Through supported decision making we can increase skills in decision making and increase opportunities for making decisions, which will increase ability to recognize and report abuse and exploitation.

**Q: Is there a printable format of this PowerPoint?**

A: The presentation slides will be provided in pdf form on IPMG's website, social media, and to all registrants.

**Q: Did the nursing home get their way with Lillian and take away her husband's ability to make decisions for her?**



A: At this time the outcome is unknown as the court records are sealed. Dino reports that he is going to keep fighting.

**Q: Can you direct us to guardianship statistics by State?**

A: Not at this time. Unfortunately, states are not required to keep this type of data.

**Q: Is there any way to fund supported decision making without a guardianship (for example, in the context of a Medicaid recipient)?**

A: It may be funded through Medicaid and VR. For example, with Medicaid Waiver, it should cover services and supports needed to live independently as possible in the community, which could include supported decision making. Think broadly about the types of services and supports that are available. For example, financial planning and assistance could be covered through Medicaid Waiver, VR, etc.

**Q: If a person has a guardian but that guardian passes away does that person become emancipated?**

A: No. The court is the actual guardian who gives decision making abilities to an appointed person. Guardianship cannot be identified in a "will" and many people will end up with a stranger as their guardian after the appointed guardian has passed away.

**Q: What made you want to do what you are doing today?**

A: My uncle had Cerebral Palsy and the doctors and nurses tried to convince my grandfather to place him in an institution or let "nature take its course" by leaving him in front of an open window. My grandfather took my uncle home and he became very involved in his community and family. This was not strange or special for me because that's the way it was in my family. My grandfather believed my uncle had the right to live his life. This is what helped shape my career choices.