



How APSI Promotes Supported Decision-Making

Supported decision-making looks different for everyone. It can be done within guardianship or as an alternative to guardianship. It is a set of skills that can be easily developed by some and found much more challenging by others. There are as many ways to undertake supported decision-making as there are people who take it on!

The good news is, APSI can provide support to individuals and teams no matter where they are in the process. Whether APSI is providing targeted decision-making, guardianship services, or acting as a support following restoration, our goal is to be there to help in any situation.

Through our services, we promote supported decision-making in three primary ways.

Opportunities to develop and use self-advocacy skills, such as participation in groups that address issues important to the individual.

In addition to self-advocacy groups in the community like People First, Aktion Club, and the Ohio Self-Determination Association, APSI clients have the opportunity to participate as Advocacy Ambassadors. Ambassadors meet monthly with APSI leadership to share their perspectives about issues impacting them and to provide input on how APSI can better meet its clients' needs. They develop self-advocacy skills and enjoy speaking up for themselves and on behalf of others. Ambassadors also have opportunities to engage in other advocacy events like DD Awareness & Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse.

Restoration to competency when guardianship is no longer necessary.

APSI collaborates with clients and their teams to actively identify individuals who are ready for their guardianship to be terminated—and those who are interested in working toward restoration over time. Since 2016, over 100 former APSI clients have been restored to competency!

For clients who need more time to prepare for restoration, APSI uses a process we call Guardianship to Restoration Transition (GRT) where we work with the person and their team to set goals and milestones to develop the skills they need to make decisions more independently. Our Intake & Services Coordinator supports the APSI staff and teams to assess progress, adjust supports, address barriers, review resources, and outline next steps.

Access to alternatives to guardianship and opportunities to develop independence and decision-making skills.

With our unique expertise in helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who have limited natural supports, APSI also offers support to people who do not need a guardian. For former APSI clients whose guardianships have been terminated, APSI can stay involved to help with the transition to more independent decision-making. For others who need short-term help with important decisions like living situations, medical care, or other personal matters, APSI can provide support in understanding, communicating, and implementing decisions through a service we call Targeted Decision-Making (TDM).

How to Get Help or Make a Referral

If you or someone you know wants APSI's help with supported decision-making, we want to hear from you!

For current APSI clients, contact the assigned Protective Service Representative (PSR) or Regional Program Director (RPD). [**www.apsiohio.org/contact**](http://www.apsiohio.org/contact)

For other requests, contact Shirella Walls, APSI's Intake & Services Coordinator.
[**shirella.walls@apsiohio.org**](mailto:shirella.walls@apsiohio.org)