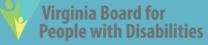
# 3 MINUTE WEBINARS: GUARDIANSHIP MYTHS







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VIRGINIA BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, 1100 BANK STREET, 7TH FLOOR, RICHMOND, VA 23219, (800) 846-4464, OR VISIT THE BOARD'S

## I HAVE TO BECOME GUARDIAN



- Parents are never mandated to get guardianship when their child turns
   18
- There are loads of alternatives to guardianship, like Supported
   Decision Making, that are free or low cost AND protect the rights of the person with a disability

## ALL PEOPLE WITH DD NEED GUARDIANS



- The overwhelming majority of people with DD don't need a guardian, but we all need help making decisions
- People need guardians only when all less restrictive options have been explored and will not work

## IF I'M NOT GUARDIAN, NO ONE WILL TALK TO ME



- Powers of Attorney or a signed consent to exchange information to allow anyone in the room who the person with a disability wants there
- POAs can be totally customized to detail who should be involed and how they are to be included

#### **GUARDIANS PREVENT ABUSE**



- Just having a guardian does nothing to prevent abuse, but having an active support network who communicates does. A Supported Decision Making team can fill this role.
- People who have greater selfdetermination (e.g., are empowered to make their own choices) are less likely to be abused or exploited

## IT WON'T HURT TO PUT GUARDIANSHIP IN PLACE



- Guardianship is expensive and restricts rights, which can limit life options and self-determination
- Once a guardian is in place, someone always needs to be in that role, so future guardians are critical. It can be difficult and expensive to undo guardianship.

## IF I'M GUARDIAN, MY CHILD CANNOT BE ARRESTED



- Guardianship provides no protections against arrest or incarceration
- Guardians are given no special rights to speak or advocate at criminal hearings

# PEOPLE WITH GUARDIANS CAN'T BE FINANCIALLY ABUSED



- If money is taken away in a scam, guardianship does nothing to bring it back
- Low cost tools like POAs,
  Special Needs Trusts, and
  ABLE Accounts can protect
  money and assets without
  removing rights

### SDM RESOURCES

- The Arc of Northern Virginia
  - https://thearcofnova.org/programsservices/sdm
- National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making
  - <u>http://supporteddecisionmaking.org/</u>
- Center for Public Representation
  - <u>https://supporteddecisions.org/</u>



# LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ARC OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

- Visit us online at <a href="https://thearcofnova.org/">https://thearcofnova.org/</a>
- Ask us a question at <u>https://thearcofnova.org/answers/</u>
- Find our Transition POINTS
   guides and tool kits at
   https://thearcofnova.org/programs/transition/
  - Early Intervention
  - Special Education
  - Securing a Future
  - Entering the World of Work
  - Finding a Home
  - -Aging with a Disability