

Supported Decision-Making as an Alternative to Guardianship



Megan Rusciano, Esq., is a staff attorney at the Center for Public Representation where she focuses on promoting and expanding work on supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship. Prior to joining CPR, Megan was a senior staff attorney at The Arc of the United States and also spent over five years working at Disability Rights Maryland, where she was the managing attorney of the Developmental Disabilities, Health Care, and Victims of Crime Act Team.

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2026

Time: 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. EDT

Where: Live Interactive Webinar

Registered participants will receive an email with instructions on how to join the session.

Objectives: Participants will be able to:

1. Identify resources and referral sources for family and community members regarding alternatives to guardianship.
2. Recognize how to support and accommodate people with disabilities to increase their self-determination.
3. Select appropriate less restrictive alternatives to guardianship.

**To register, [click here](#)
or call 443-923-4114.**

This session will provide an overview of supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship, including a discussion of Maryland's supported decision-making legislation. Supported decision-making has gained national and international recognition as a best practice and legal tool that can preserve the civil rights of people with disabilities and eliminate the need for a guardian in certain situations. The presentation will discuss standards for pursuing guardianship of the person and guardianship of the property. They will also discuss other alternatives to guardianship, including advance directives, advance directives for mental health, surrogate decision-makers, representative payees and powers of attorney. Resources and referrals on alternatives to guardianship and supported decision-making will be provided. **Instructional level:** Intermediate.

Who should attend? Professionals and anyone interested in the topic. 3.0 Continuing Education Credits (Category 1) will be granted to licensed social workers and psychologists for attending the session in full and completing all requirements. A Certificate of Attendance will be made available for all other disciplines.

Kennedy Krieger Institute, Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities is authorized by the Board of Social Work Examiners in Maryland to sponsor social work continuing education programs, and it maintains full responsibility for this program. Kennedy Krieger Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Kennedy Krieger Institute maintains responsibility for this program and its content. No conflicts have been identified (this includes commercial support and research grants/funding). The registration fees are: \$90 for professionals seeking CE credit, \$70 for professionals and community members not seeking CE credit, and \$35 for students not seeking CE credit who register with a school email address.

For more information on our Annual Learning Series or to request accommodation or assistance for individuals with disabilities, please contact us by phone at **443-923-4114**, email **Training.MCDD@KennedyKrieger.org** or visit **KennedyKrieger.org/MCDDTraining**. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least seven days prior to the scheduled meeting.

