

# Supported Decision Making:



What

## How Should Professionals Implement Supported Decision Making?

Professionals must allow a disabled person who uses SDM to have supporters attend and participate in any meetings and communications:

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,” including IEPs, service and care planning meetings, discharge planning meetings, meetings with health care providers, meetings with providers of residential services or long-term services and supports, and communications with a bank, financial institution, or financial planner.” Welf. & Inst. Code § 21004(a)

The disabled adult may communicate that they wish to have one or more adults attend a meeting or discussion or participate in any written communication “through oral statement, gesture, or any augmentative or alternative communication method” used by the disabled adult. Welf. & Inst. Code § 21004(b).

A third party may only refuse the presence of supporting adults if they “reasonably believe [ ] that there is fraud, coercion, abuse” or other reportable conduct by the supporters. Welf. & Inst. Code § 21004(c).

Recognizing an SDM agreement may be a required reasonable accommodation under state and federal laws.

SDM agreements may be accompanied by other documents such as releases of information, powers of attorney, or other legal documents. These additional documents are not required for the SDM agreement to be considered valid. Professionals should honor these documents as well.

## How Can I Learn More

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