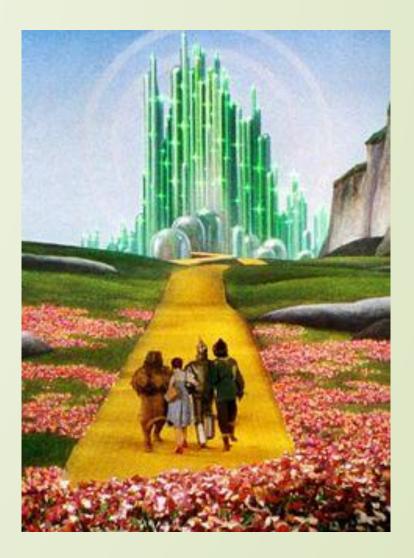
Supported Decision-Making

Considering Safe and Legal Alternatives to Guardianship

By Thomas F. Coleman, J.D. Legal Director Spectrum Institute

Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Childhood to Adulthood **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Childhood to Adulthood **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



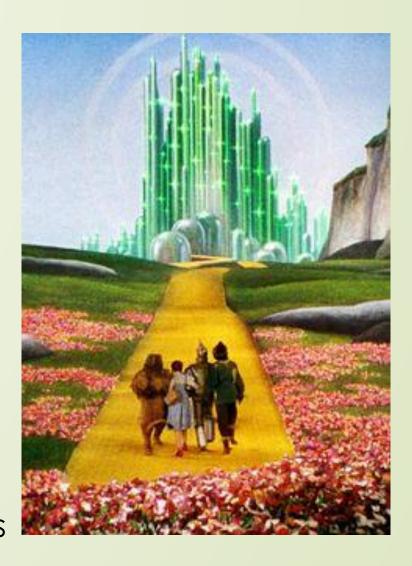
Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices



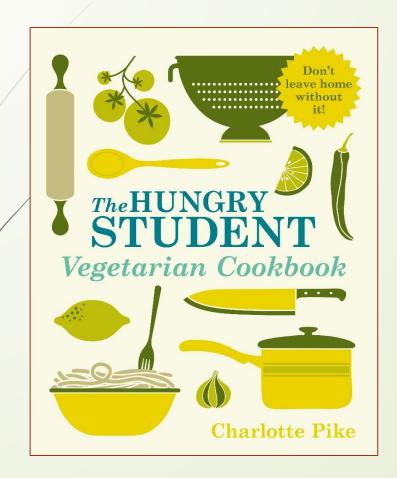
Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices

Support – We All Get Help

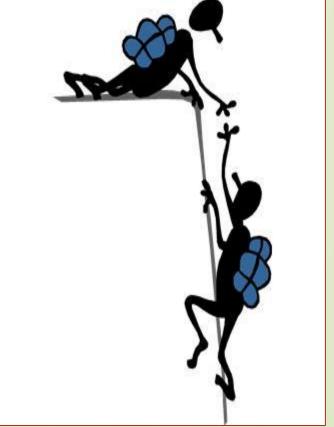
Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



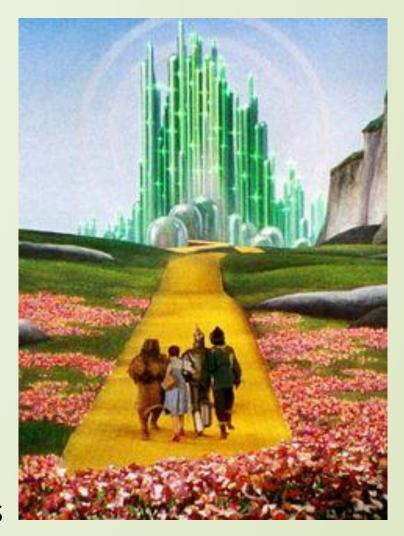
Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road
Support – We All Get Help







Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior

Dependent – Birth to 12

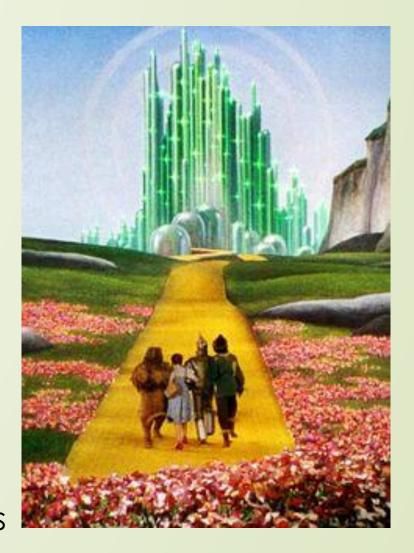
Semi-Dependent – 12 to 17

Independent - 18 +

Semi-Dependent – 65 +



Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior Civil Rights Protections Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road

 Civil Rights Protections

Guardianship Law – maximizing independence / freedom from abuse

Constitution -- freedom of **speech** / freedom from speech freedom to **associate** / not to associate

norm of religion / freedom from religion

- y freedom from **restraint**, isolation
- mowery maximizing **autonomy** and choices

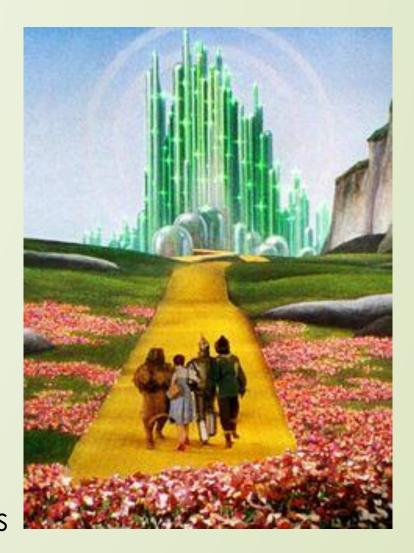
process – procedural fairness

Terrecy – sexual conduct and relationships

ADA – access to services; access to justice (guardianships)

United Nations – Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** ✓ Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road

 Types of Decision-Making
 Types of Decision-Making

Totally Independent



Delegating to Another (POA)



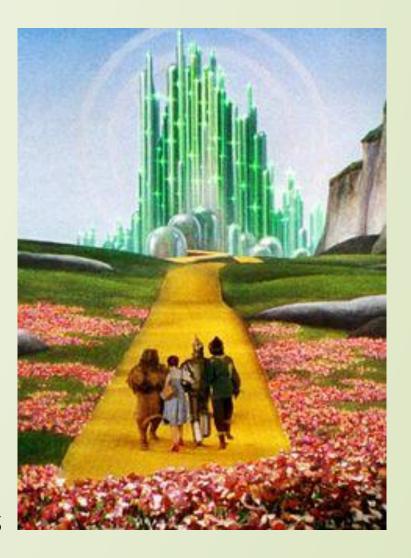
Independent with Help (SDM)



Substituted Judgment (Court)



Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making **Areas of Major Life Decisions Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Areas of Major Life Decisions

Medical Care

Confidentiality

Finances

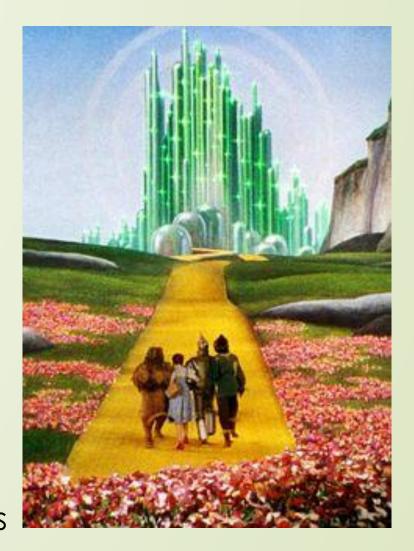
Housing

Education



Voting

Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions Decision-Making Capacity **Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements

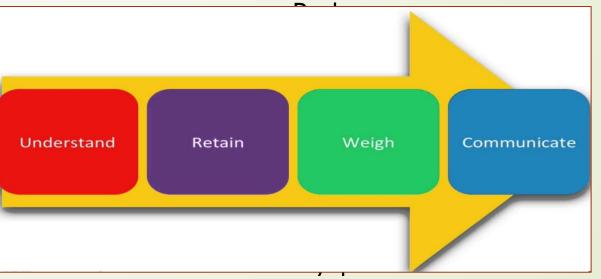


Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road

 Decision-Making Capacity
 Decision-Making Capacity

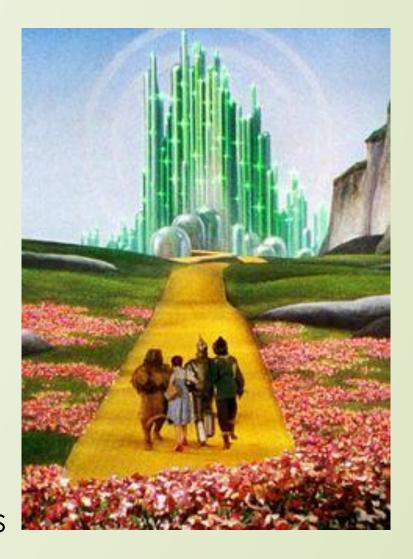
Birth to 18 = Presumption of Parental Authority

18 and over = Presumption of Authority by Individual



Capacity has four elements

Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity** Pro-Active or Reactive SDM, POA, or Guardianship How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road
Pro-Active or Reactive

Plan for transition to adulthood?

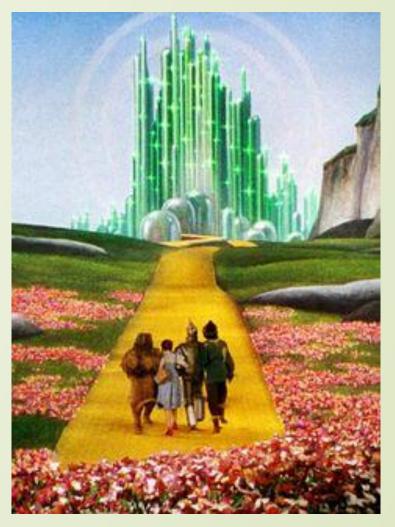


ntil a arises?



Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** ✓ SDM, POA, or Guardianship

How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road SDM, POA, or Guardianship



er of attorney only requires acity when it is created

DM requires capacity when created **and at all times later**

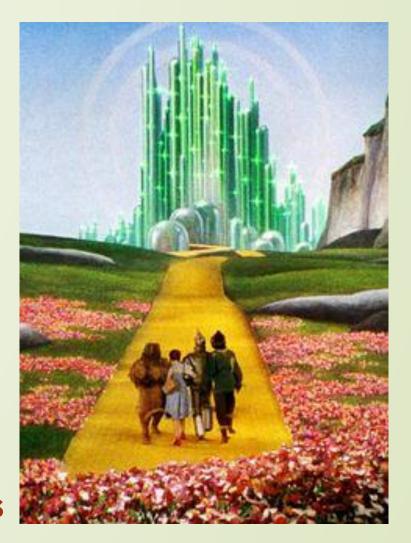


Guardianship does not require capacity

Capacity = understanding information, voluntary choices, no undue influence, and no conflict of interest

Decisions – Everyone Makes Choices Support – We All Get Help Transitioning – Child to Adult to Senior **Civil Rights Protections** Types of Decision-Making Areas of Major Life Decisions **Decision-Making Capacity Pro-Active or Reactive** SDM, POA, or Guardianship

How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements



Supported Decision-Making / Traveling Down the Yellow Brick Road

 How to Assess/Create SDM Agreements

Social Services – Planning Process – (1) Person centered planning with each area of decision-making assessed by a **qualified** professional; (2) Referral to attorney to draft SDM documents; (3) Effective monitoring to reduce the risk of abuse

Probate Court -- **Guardianship** – (1) Petitioner asks for evaluation of adult for less restrictive alternatives in each area of decision-making; (2) court-appointed attorney initiates request for evaluation if it was not already done, or appointment of a **capacity expert(s)**.

Supported Decision-Making

Considering Safe and Legal Alternatives to Guardianship