

Self-Determination: Principles for Evaluating Your System



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People have the freedom to plan their own life and to pursue the things that are important to them



.....with the support of independent planning and support coordination.

People have the freedom to plan their own life and to pursue the things that are important to them with the support of independent planning and support coordination

Individuals with Disabilities:

I have the freedom to plan my life and do the things important to me.

I can get help from people who are not MRDD workers to make my plan work.

Families:

We can receive unbiased assistance of our own choosing when we develop a plan for our child with a disability

System:

Unbiased, competent and independent support coordination of an individual's or family's choice is always available for both planning purposes and for assistance with ongoing monitoring, evaluation and implementation.



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People have the freedom to experience the same life opportunities as other people their age.....



.....connected with others in their communities.

People have the freedom to experience the same life opportunities as other people their age, connected with others in their communities.

Individuals with Disabilities:

I have the freedom to have life experiences the same as everyone else, and be a part of my community.

Families:

We can choose those opportunities typical for all children with the assistance of resources from the system

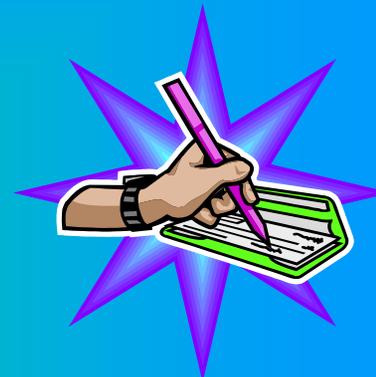
System:

Individuals with disabilities and families are encouraged and supported to seek personal and community connections that are age appropriate with the support of our resources. There is no fixed menu.



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Each person has authority over his own individual support budget.



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Each person has authority over his own individual support budget.

Individuals with Disabilities:

I have the freedom to use my individual budget to help me get the things that I need. I know everything about my budget, and I decide how it is spent.

Families:

We have the freedom to control a targeted amount of resources and to exercise creativity in purchasing supports.

System:

Once a fair and equitable amount of resources is identified individuals and families can exercise freedom and creativity in making support purchases that assist the person with a disability to lead a meaningful life.



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All those involved demonstrate confirmation of the critical role self advocates and their families must play in making decisions in their own lives



..... and in designing and operating the system they rely on.

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Individuals with Disabilities:

Everyone understands and shows that self-advocates and their families are the most important decision-makers when:

1. I make plans for my own future; and
2. Decide about how the service system will operate.

Families:

We have the authority to implement responsible planning choices for loved ones who are minors and are an integral part of all rule making and system changes. Our adult children are listened to objectively and considered as “adults” by the human service system.

System:

We encourage and support both responsible individual and family control over resources and enter into equal partnerships with both in all system re-design issues.



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People have the freedom to choose and set up the support they need to pursue the life they envision.



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Individuals with Disabilities:

I have the freedom to choose the people I want to help me reach my goals.



Families:

We have the authority to select all personnel and supports to further the life goals of our loved ones.

System:

We delegate the authority for selecting both personnel and supports to individuals with disabilities and families.



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People enjoy the freedom of economic independence and security, with opportunities to earn adequate income.



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Individuals with Disabilities:

I have the freedom to work and make enough money so I can support myself and have a better life.



Families:

We are encouraged and supported to assist our loved ones in planning an economic future through real work at minimum wage or above and/or microenterprise development (very tiny businesses).

We are supported in planning these goals while our children are minors.

Our targeted amount of resources can be used at various stages to assist in developing these opportunities.

System:

We establish policies together with individuals and families that both encourage economic futures and provide resources to make this a reality.



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People take responsibility for decisions in their lives and for the support money allocated to them



.....with the assistance of an independent fiscal intermediary.



People take responsibility for decisions in their lives and for the support money allocated to them with the assistance of an independent fiscal intermediary.

Individuals with Disabilities:

I take responsibility for decisions I make and for how I spend my individual budget, with help from someone I choose.

Families:

We exercise great responsibility for the wise use of public dollars and receive the assistance of an independent fiscal agent.

System:

We provide for the establishment of fiscal intermediaries and jointly with individuals with disabilities and families establish guidelines and principles for the wise and cost-effective use of public dollars.





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