







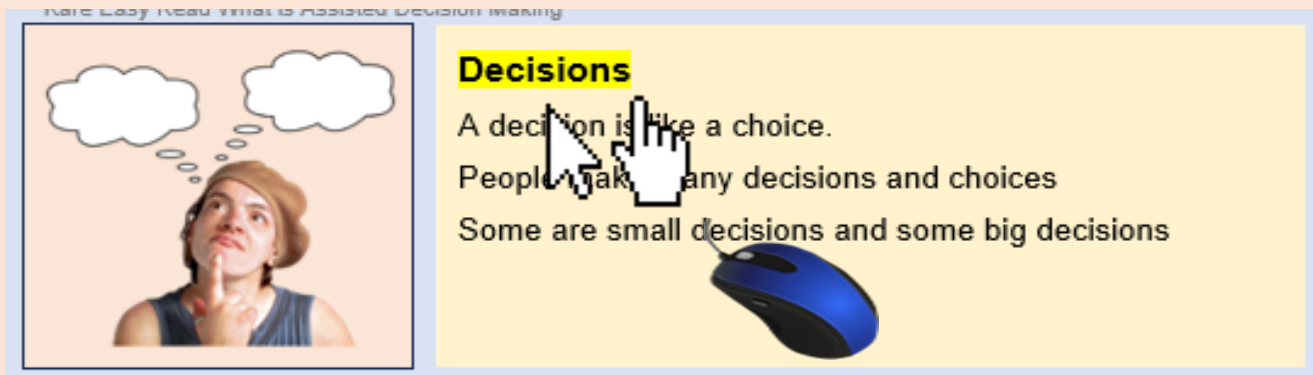
Assisted Decision Making Guide

Easy Read

This document tells you about
Assisted Decision Making

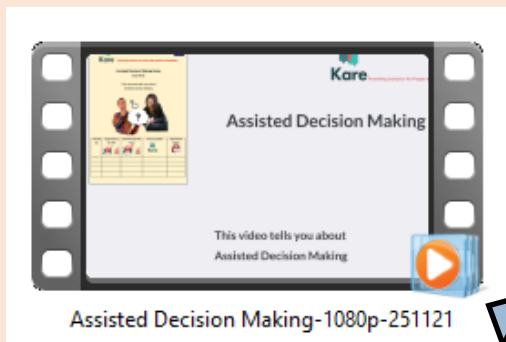


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| | February 2026 | February 2026 | March 2026 | March 2026 |
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The screenshot shows a webpage with a yellow background. On the left, there is a photo of a woman with a brown hat looking thoughtful, with two thought bubbles above her head. To the right of the photo, the word "Decisions" is written in bold black text on a yellow rectangular background. Below this, there are three lines of text: "A decision is like a choice.", "People take many decisions and choices", and "Some are small decisions and some big decisions". A blue computer mouse is positioned below the text, and a white mouse cursor is hovering over the left side of the mouse. A blue arrow points from the bottom right of this screenshot towards the instruction box below.

**To Open videos on each section
move the Mouse over the Yellow Text
and Click the Left Hand Side of The Mouse**



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The video frame displays the title "Assisted Decision Making" and a subtitle "This video tells you about Assisted Decision Making". A play button icon is visible in the bottom right corner of the video frame. Below the video frame, the text "Assisted Decision Making-1080p-251121" is displayed. A blue arrow points from the bottom right of this screenshot towards the instruction box below.

**Use these steps to open links to accessible videos
about each Section.**



Decisions

A decision is like a choice.

People make many decisions and choices

Some are small decisions and some big decisions



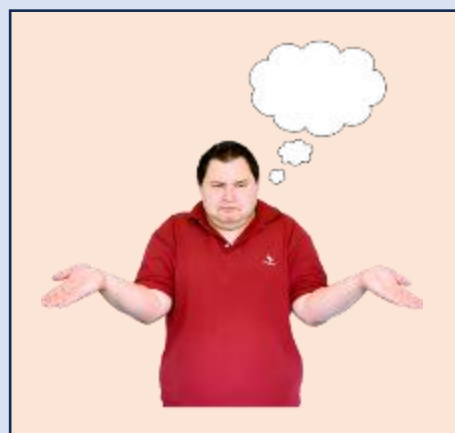
Small decisions can be choices like:

- What clothes to wear
- What will I buy for my lunch
- What daily activities I would like to take part in



Big decisions can be choices like:

- Where I would like to live
- Following medical advice
Like to have surgery or not
- How to keep my money safe
- Legal matters like making a will



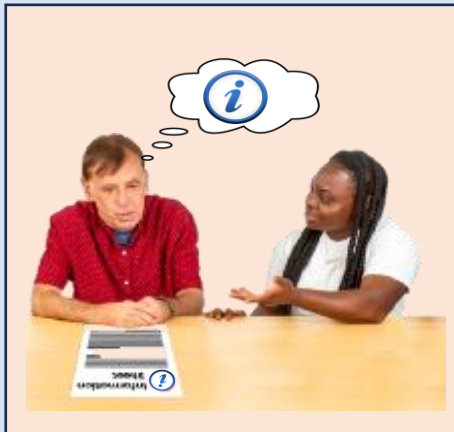
Some people make all decisions about their own life

Some people find it hard to make big decisions
and might make only small decisions



If a person can make a choice
It is called having Capacity

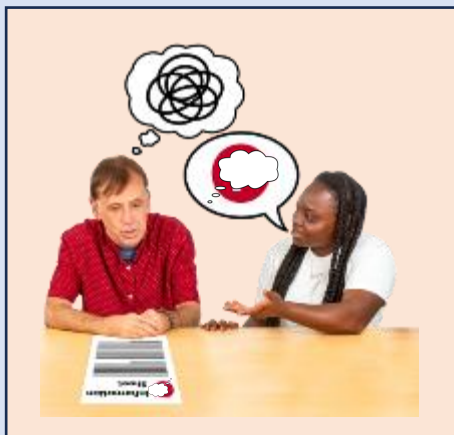
Decision Making Capacity means being able
to choose about something when you need to



Decision Making Capacity means you have the ability

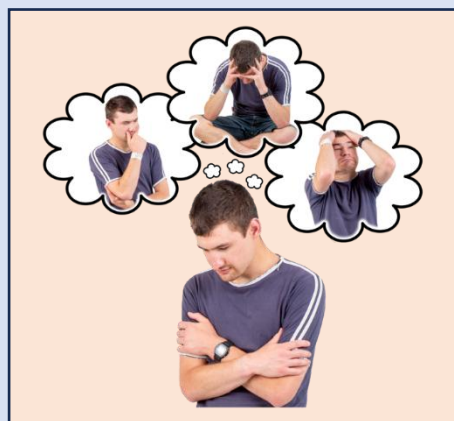
- To Understand the information to choose from
- To Remember that information about the choice
- To Make a decision
- To let people know your decision

Ability is another word for being able to do something



If a person cannot make a choice
It is called lacking Capacity

They might have trouble understanding their choices
or letting other people know their decisions



Capacity depends on the decision and the time.

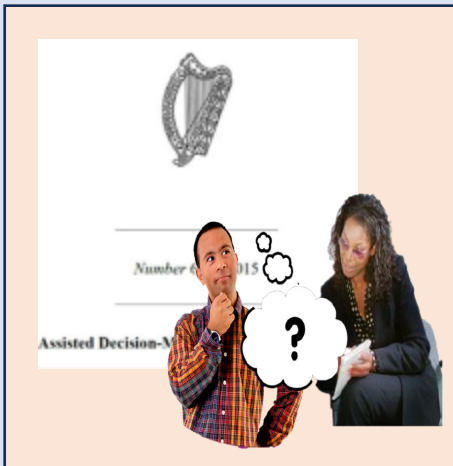
You might need help for one decision but not others.
You might need support now but not at a later time

If someone is unwell and not able to make a decision.
This might change when the person is feeling better



When someone needs support to make a decision this is called Assisted Decision Making

Assisted decision making means helping someone make choices about their life



Assisted Decision Making Act:

Assisted Decision Making Act is a law in Ireland.

It was made a law in 2015 and started on April 2023

The law aims to help people make their own choices, even if they need some support.



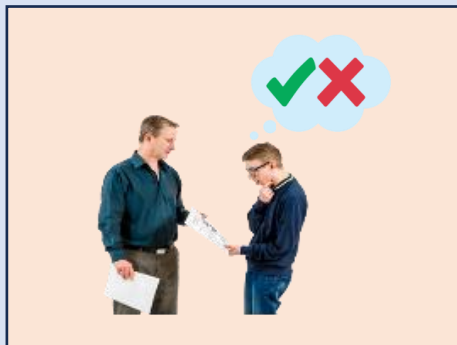
There are some hard to understand words in the Act
We will do our best to explain them clearly

If anything is still confusing or you have questions
[There are links to more easy to read information and videos at the end of this document](#)

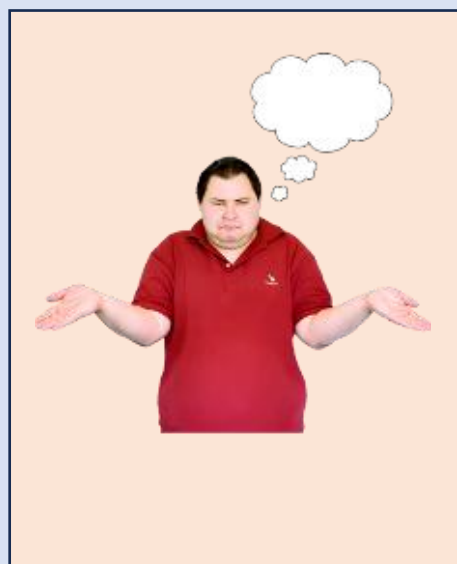


This law applies to all adults in Ireland and affects many parts of their lives, including health, property and personal matters.

Like how to spend your money or where to live or deciding if you should have medical treatment or not

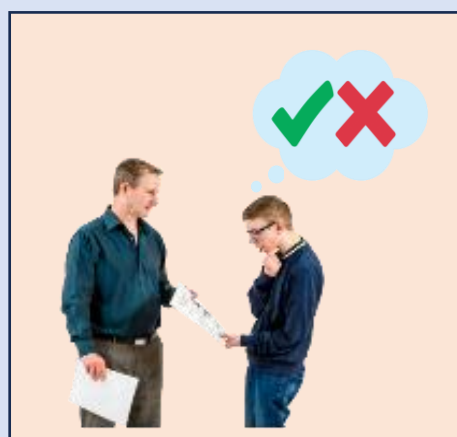


It is about making sure that people have the support they need to make as many decisions as they can themselves



The law helps people who have trouble making decisions, because of different reasons like:

- Intellectual disabilities
- Trouble communicating or understanding different choices
- Mental health issues
- Brain Injury
- Dementia



This help can include

- Having assistants,
- Sharing decision-making with someone else,
- Having a representative make decisions for them.



These kinds of decision making supports are called

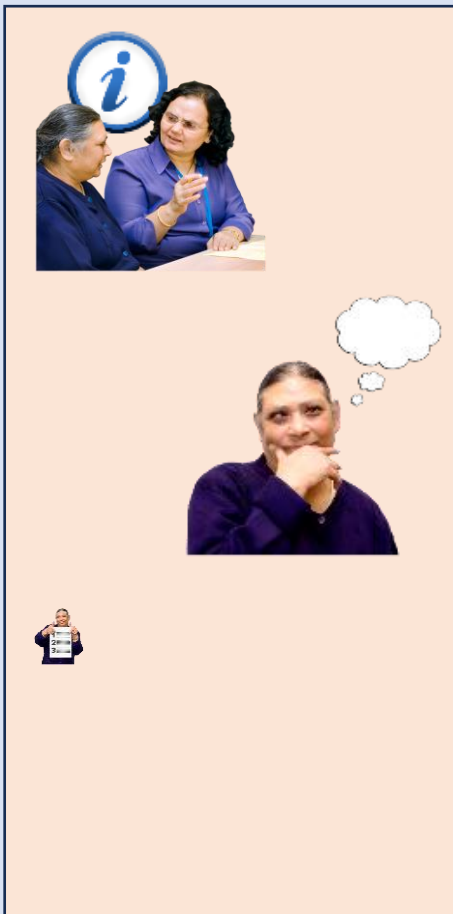
- Decision-Making Assistant
- Co-Decision-Maker
- Decision Making Representative



Decision-Making Assistant

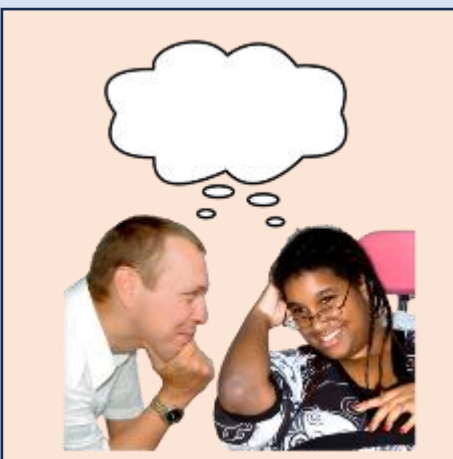
A person can choose someone they know and trust to be their decision-making assistant

The role of a decision-making assistant is to help the person to make decisions for themselves.



This support includes:

- Getting information the person needs
- Explaining things clearly including the choices they have
- Finding out what the person wants and prefers for a decision
- Helping the person say what they want and prefer
- Helping the person share their decision with others
- Making sure the decision is followed and acted on properly



Co-Decision-Maker

If you cannot make some decisions on your own, you can choose someone to help you.

This trusted person is called a co-decision-maker.



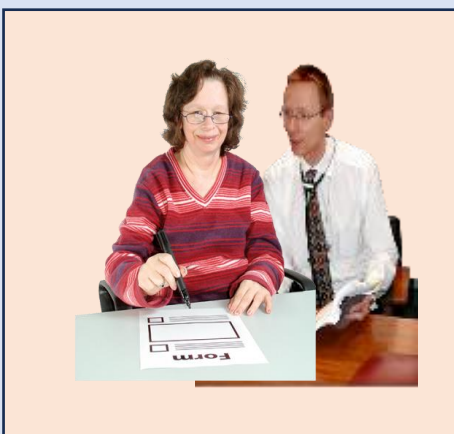
You make a written agreement with this person.
This is called a co-decision-making agreement

The agreement must include a list of decisions
you will make together.



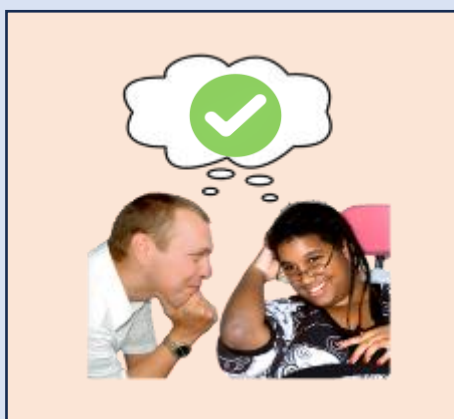
They send the agreement to the Decision Support
Service (DSS)

The Decision Support Service checks to make sure
the arrangement is working well



Two other people must watch you sign it
and they also sign it as witnesses

A doctor or healthcare professional must check
that you are able to make this agreement.



The decisions in the agreement must be made together
You and your co-decision-maker must agree together
on the decisions



You can have more than one co-decision-making agreement.

But you can only have one co-decision-maker for each agreement.



Decision Making Representative

If a person cannot make decisions, even with help.

Someone can apply to the court for help in how decisions will be made



The court can then:

- Make the decision itself, or
- Choose a decision making representative to make decisions for the person.



What the Court Does

The court must listen to who the person wants to be their decision-making representative.

The court will say what types of decisions the representative is allowed to make.



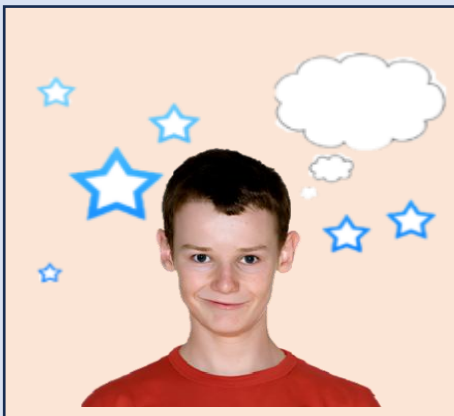
What a Decision-Making Representative Does

A decision-making representative is chosen by the court to make certain decisions for someone else



A decision-making representative can only make the decisions that the court allows

This is a legal document called a decision-making representation order



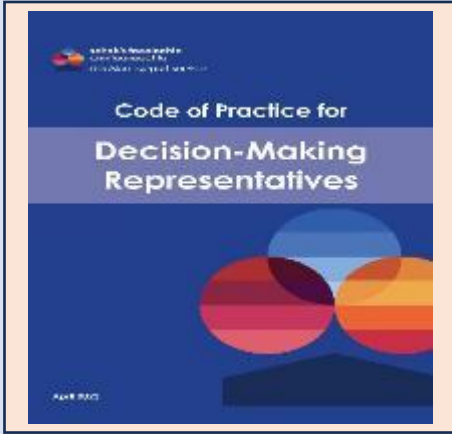
They must respect the person's wishes, values and beliefs.

They must still talk to the person and try to find out what the person wants.



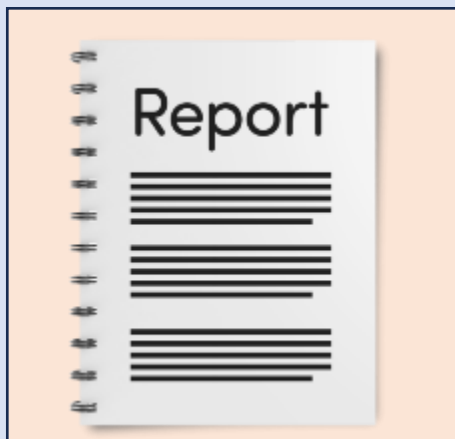
They also listen to other people's views, like:

- Family Members
- Carers
- Doctors and nurses
- Other professionals like social workers and legal and financial advisors



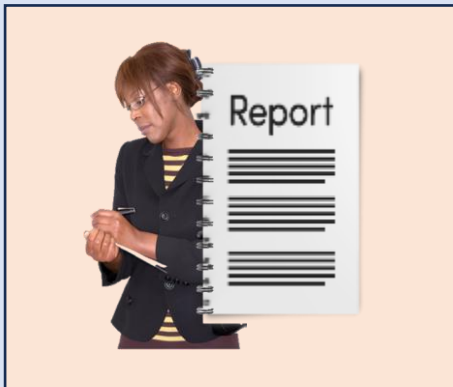
They must follow the Decision Support Services guiding principles and code of practice.

These are important rules and set of instructions on how to do their job properly



They send reports to the Decision Support Services
These reports include:

- What decisions they made
- Any money spent or received
- Any payments or expenses they claimed



The Decision Support Service checks to make sure everything is working well.



Planning Ahead

The law also allows for planning ahead like setting up powers of attorney or writing down healthcare wishes



Enduring Power of Attorney

People can choose someone they trust called an attorney to make decisions for them in the future

This is a legal document that gives your attorney the power to make decisions if you become unable to.

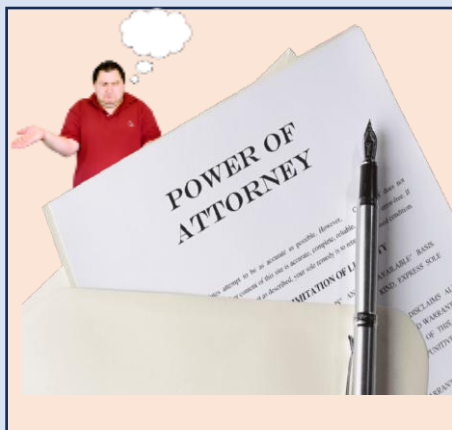


These decisions can be about:

Money and property

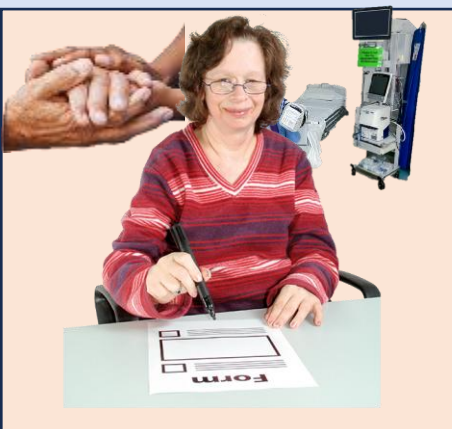
Personal welfare

But not medical treatment which can be arranged in a document called an Advanced Healthcare Directive



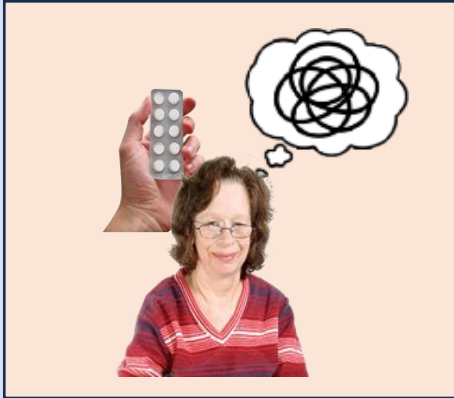
When you make an Enduring Power of Attorney, the Decision Support Service will keep a record of it.

It only starts to work when you can no longer make the decisions yourself



Advance Healthcare Directive

Is about letting people know about what amount of medical treatment you want and do not want in the future and at the end of your life



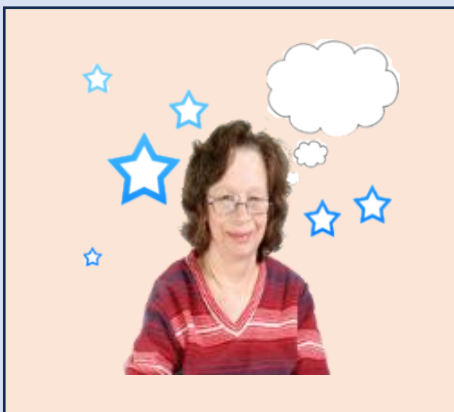
It only starts to work when you cannot make medical decisions for yourself anymore

A person can change their Advance Healthcare Directive any time



The person can choose someone they trust to make medical decisions for them in the future.

This person is called a designated healthcare representative.



What the Representative Does

They make sure others know about the person's advance healthcare directive.

They make sure the person's wishes are respected



Supervision of Decision Supporters

The Decision Support Services keep a list of all decision support arrangements.

This includes:

- Co-decision-makers
- Decision-making representatives
- Attorneys



The Decision Support Services check that decision supporters are doing their job properly.

These supporters must send reports about what they have done.

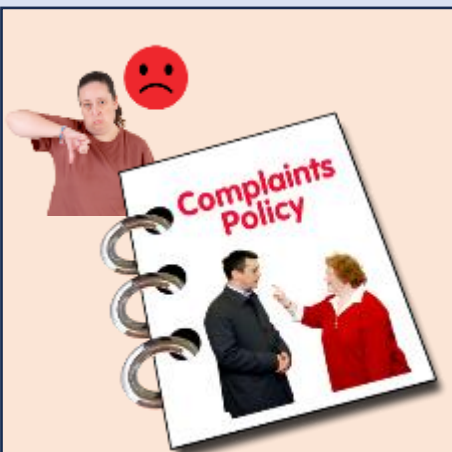


If they find this difficult, The Decision Support Services will help them.



If the decision supporter is not doing their job properly The decision Support Service will sometimes ask the court to decide what to do.

The court can remove the decision supporter from their role.



Complaints

If someone is not happy about a decision arrangement or with a decision supporter

They can make a complaint to the Decision Support Service



If the complaint is found to be true
then the Decision Support Service might

- Ask the court to decide what to do or
- Try Informal resolution
This means talking to everyone involved for them
to agree to a solution without going to the court



The Decision Support Services Contact details are:

Decision Support Service,
Waterloo Exchange
Waterloo Road
Dublin 4
DO4 E5W7

01 2119750

queries@decisionsupportservice.ie

<https://www.decisionsupportservice.ie/>



More Information

Decision Support Service Easy Read materials

In this section you can find their easy to read materials leaflets and fact sheets.

[Easy to Read Materials | Decision Support Service](#)

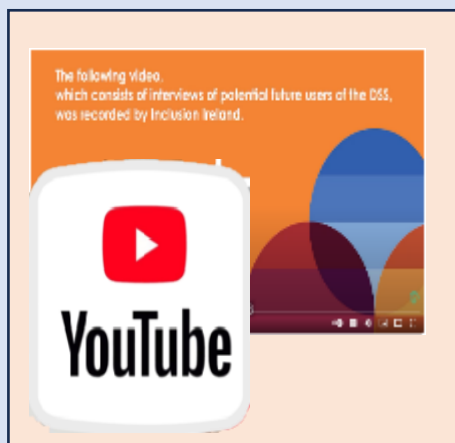


Inclusion Ireland Training Resources

In this section you can find a trainer manual and training resources on assisted decision making

[Assisted Decision Making Training Manual](#)

[Assisted Decision-Making | Inclusion Ireland](#)



Collaboration video with Inclusion Ireland

In this video we hear from potential services users on the impact of the Decision Support Service

[DSS Collaboration: Inclusion Ireland Potential Service Users - YouTube](#)



This document was designed and created together with People who use Kare Services and Voice For Kare