



Missouri Medical Rights Workgroup

Building on an Established Framework

“We’re Not Starting from Scratch”

Legislation

With the enactment of S.B. 806 in 2018 (Mo.Stat. 475.075), the Missouri Legislature established a public policy that decision-making rights of an adult should not be taken away through an order of guardianship if **less restrictive alternatives** are feasible, such as:

- * A durable **power of attorney**
- * A **supported decision-making agreement**
- * **Supported services** by individuals or agencies

Community Consensus

In 2018, a **133-member group** of people with disabilities, family members, supporters, and leaders in the legal, health, education, and financial sectors gathered to for a symposium on supported decision-making (SDM) in Missouri.

The group **unanimously agreed** to three guiding principles:

1. Recognize and respect that everyone has an **equal right to make their own decisions**, regardless of their diagnosis or functional challenges.
2. **Be respectful** of the various opinions and deeply held beliefs that have led parents and advocates to choose different **options for decision-making support**, including SDM.
3. Promote the use and development of practices that will provide people in need of support with individualized decision-making assistance in a way that imposes the **absolute minimum restriction of rights**.

The discussions of and any recommendations developed by the Missouri Medical Rights Workgroup should **build upon** this legal framework and policy consensus. The workgroup should also build upon federal and state **laws prohibiting disability discrimination in health care** services and requiring providers to offer **reasonable accommodations** and to take steps to ensure **effective communications** for patients with mental or developmental disabilities.