CHAPTER 52
SUPPORTED DECISION–MAKING AGREEMENTS

SUBCHAPTER I
DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

52.01 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) “Abuse” has the meaning given in s. 46.90 (1) (a).

(1m) “Financial exploitation” has the meaning given in s. 46.90 (1) (ed).

NOTE: Sub. (1m) was created as sub. (3) by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to sub. (1m) by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.

(2) “Functional impairment” means any of the following:

(a) A physical, developmental, or mental condition that substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities, including any of the following:

1. Capacity for independent living.
2. Self direction.
4. Mobility.
5. Communication.

(b) Impairment, as defined under s. 54.01 (14).

(c) Other like incapacities, as defined under s. 54.01 (22).

(4) “Health care provider” has the meaning given in s. 155.01 (7).

(5) “Neglect” has the meaning given in s. 46.90 (1) (f).

(6) “Supported decision–making” means a process of supporting and accommodating an adult with a functional impairment to enable the adult to make life decisions, including decisions related to where the adult wants to live, the services, supports, and medical care the adult wants to receive, whom the adult wants to live with, and where the adult wants to work, without impeding the self-determination of the adult.

(7) “Supported decision–making agreement” is an agreement between an adult with a functional impairment and a supporter entered into under this chapter.

(8) “Supporter” means an adult who is willing to enter into an agreement with an adult with a functional impairment to provide supported decision–making.

NOTE: Section 52.01 was created as s. 53.01 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to s. 52.01 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. History: 2017 a. 345; s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.01.

52.03 Agreement not evidence of incapacity or incompetency. Execution of a supported decision–making agreement may not be used as evidence of incapacity or incompetency and does not preclude an adult with a functional impairment who has entered into such an agreement from acting independently of the agreement.
(3) An adult with a functional impairment may revoke his or her supported decision–making agreement and invalidate the supported decision–making agreement at any time by doing any of the following:

(a) Canceling, defacing, obliterating, burning, tearing, or otherwise destroying the supported decision–making agreement or directing another in the presence of the adult with a functional impairment to so destroy the supported decision–making agreement.

(b) Executing a statement, in writing, that is signed and dated by the adult with a functional impairment, expressing his or her intent to revoke the supported decision–making agreement.

(c) Verbally expressing the intent of the adult with a functional impairment to revoke the supported decision–making agreement, in the presence of 2 witnesses.

(4) Unless the supported decision–making agreement provides a different method for the supporter’s resignation, a supporter may resign by giving notice to the adult with a functional impairment.

NOTE: Section 52.14 was created as s. 53.14 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to s. 52.14 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. History: 2017 a. 345, s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.14; s. 35.17 correction in (2) (intro.).

52.16 Access to personal information. (1) A supporter is only authorized to assist the adult with a functional impairment in accessing, collecting, or obtaining information that is relevant to a decision authorized under the supported decision–making agreement.

(2) A supporter may assist with accessing or obtaining any information that will help the adult with a functional impairment make health care decisions, including medical, psychological, financial, education, or treatment records or research under ss. 51.30 and 146.83 and the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, 45 CFR 164.502. A supporter may only access or obtain patient health care records, as defined under s. 146.81 (4), if the adult with a functional impairment has signed a release allowing the supporter to see protected health information, as defined under s. 146.816 (1) (f).

(3) A supporter may assist with accessing or obtaining any information on education records under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 USC 1232g, if the adult with a functional impairment has signed a release allowing the supporter to access information under this subsection.

(4) The supporter shall ensure the information under this section is kept privileged and confidential, as applicable, and is not subject to unauthorized access, use, or disclosure.

(5) Notwithstanding the existence of a supported decision–making agreement, an adult with a functional impairment continues to have unrestricted access to personal information without the assistance of a supporter.

(6) Notwithstanding the existence of a supported decision–making agreement, an adult with a functional impairment is able to request and receive assistance on any decision that is not covered under the supported decision–making agreement at any time.

NOTE: Section 52.16 was created as s. 53.16 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to s. 52.16 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. History: 2017 a. 345, s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.16.

52.18 Authorization and witnesses. (1) An adult with a functional impairment and his or her supporter entering into a supported decision–making agreement must sign and date the agreement in the presence of 2 or more subscribing witnesses or a notary public.

(2) If the adult with a functional impairment and his or her supporter choose to sign and date the supported decision–making agreement before witnesses, the attesting witnesses must be at least 18 years of age.

NOTE: Section 52.18 was created as s. 53.18 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to s. 52.18 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. History: 2017 a. 345, s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.18.

52.20 Supported decision–making agreement instrument; form. (1) A supported decision–making agreement is valid if it is in writing, entered into voluntarily as described under s. 52.10, signed and dated as described under s. 52.18, and in substantially the following form:

NOTE: The cross–references to s. 52.10 and s. 52.18 were changed from s. 53.10 and s. 53.18 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. to reflect the renumbering under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2, of ss. 53.10 and 53.18, as created by 2017 Wis. Act 345.

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APPOINTMENT OF SUPPORTER

I, .... (insert name), make this agreement voluntarily and of my own free will.

I agree and designate that

Name of supporter ....

Address of supporter ....

E–mail address of supporter ....

Phone number(s) of supporter ....

My supporter is for the following everyday life decisions, if I have checked “Yes,” my supporter may help me with that type of decision, but if I have checked “No,” my supporter may not help me with that type of decision:

Obtaining food, clothing, and shelter — Yes.... No....

Taking care of my physical health — Yes.... No....

Managing my financial affairs — Yes.... No....

Taking care of my mental health — Yes.... No....

Applying for public benefits — Yes.... No....

Assistance with seeking vocational rehabilitation services and other vocational supports — Yes.... No....

The following are other decisions I have specifically identified that I would like assistance with ....

If I have not checked either “Yes” or “No” or specifically identified and listed a decision immediately above, my supporter may not help me with that type of decision.

My supporter is not allowed to make decisions for me. To help me with my decisions, my supporter may do any of the following, if I have checked “Yes”:

1. Help me access, collect, or obtain information, including records, relevant to a decision. If I have checked “Yes,” my supporter may help me access, collect, or obtain the type of information specified, including relevant records, but if I have checked “No,” or I have not checked either “Yes” or “No,” my supporter may not help me access, collect, or obtain that type of information:

   Medical — Yes.... No....
   Psychological — Yes.... No....
   Financial — Yes.... No....
   Education — Yes.... No....
   Treatment — Yes.... No....
   Other — Yes.... No.... (If “Yes,” specify the other type(s) of information with which the supporter may assist ...)

2. Help me understand my options so I can make an informed decision.

   Yes.... No....

3. Help me communicate my decision to appropriate persons.

   Yes.... No....

4. Help me access appropriate personal records, including protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and other records that may or may not require a release for specific decisions I want to make.

   Yes.... No....

EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUPPORTED DECISION–MAKING AGREEMENT

This supported decision–making agreement is effective immediately and will continue until .... (insert date), or until the agreement is terminated by my supporter or me or by operation of law.

NOTE: Section 52.14 was created as s. 53.14 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renumbered to s. 52.14 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. to reflect the renumbering under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2, of ss. 53.10 and 53.18, as created by 2017 Wis. Act 345.
3 Updated 17–18 Wis. Stats.

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SUBCHAPTER III

DUTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS WITH RESPECT TO AGREEMENT

52.30 Reliance on agreement; limitation of liability.

(1) A person who receives the original or a copy of a supported decision–making agreement shall rely on the agreement, except if the person has cause to believe that the adult with a functional impairment is being abused, neglected, unduly influenced, or financially exploited by the supporter as described under s. 52.32.

NOTE: The cross-reference to s. 52.32 was changed from s. 53.32 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. of s. 53.32, as created by 2017 Wis. Act 345.

(2) A person is not subject to criminal or civil liability and has not engaged in professional misconduct for an act or omission if the act or omission is done in good faith and in reliance on a supported decision–making agreement.

(3) Any health care provider that respects and acts consistently with the authority given to a supporter by a duly executed supported decision–making agreement shall be immune from any action alleging that the agreement was invalid unless the entity, custodian, or organization had actual knowledge or notice that the adult with a functional impairment had revoked such authorization, that the agreement was invalid, or that the supporter had committed abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation as described in s. 52.14 (2) (a).

NOTE: The cross-reference to s. 52.14 (2) (a) was changed from s. 53.14 (2) (a) by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. to reflect the renumbering under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. of s. 53.14 (2) (a), as created by 2017 Wis. Act 345.

(4) Any health care provider that respects and acts consistently with the authority given to a supporter by a duly executed supported decision–making agreement shall be immune from any action alleging that the adult with a functional impairment lacked capacity to provide informed consent unless the entity, custodian, or organization had actual knowledge or notice that the adult with a functional impairment had revoked such authorization, that the agreement was invalid, or that the supporter had committed abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation as described in s. 52.14 (2) (a).

NOTE: The cross-reference to s. 52.14 (2) (a) was changed from s. 53.14 (2) (a) by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. to reflect the renumbering under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2. of s. 53.14 (2) (a), as created by 2017 Wis. Act 345.

(5) Any public or private entity, custodian, or organization that discloses personal information about an adult with a functional impairment to a supporter who is authorized to access, collect, or obtain or assist the adult with a functional impairment in accessing, collecting, or obtaining that information shall be immune from any action alleging that it improperly or unlawfully disclosed such information to the supporter unless the entity, custodian, or organization had actual knowledge that the adult with a functional impairment had revoked such authorization.

(6) This section may not be construed to provide immunity from actions alleging that a health care provider has done any of the following:

(a) Caused personal injury as a result of a negligent, reckless, or intentional act.

(b) Acted inconsistently with the expressed wishes of an adult with a functional impairment.

(c) Failed to provide information to either an adult with a functional impairment or his or her supporter that would be necessary for informed consent.

(d) Otherwise acted inconsistently with applicable law.

(7) The existence or availability of a supported decision–making agreement does not relieve a health care provider of any legal obligation to provide services to individuals with dis-
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abilities, including the obligation to provide reasonable accommoda-
tions or auxiliary aids and services, including interpretation
services and communication supports to individuals with disabili-
ties under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

(8) A supporter acting in the context of a valid supported deci-
sion-making agreement is immune from civil liability for his or
her acts or omissions in performing duties as the supporter if he
or she performs the duties in good faith, in conformance with the
supported decision-making agreement or document of the adult
with a functional impairment, and with the degree and prudence
that an ordinarily prudent person exercises in his or her own
affairs.

NOTE: Section 52.30 was created as s. 53.30 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renum-
bered to s. 52.30 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.
History: 2017 a. 345; s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.30.

52.32 Reporting of suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. (1) If a person who receives a copy of a sup-
ported decision-making agreement or is aware of the existence of
a supported decision-making agreement has cause to believe that
the adult with a functional impairment is being abused, neglected,
or financially exploited by the supporter, the person may report
under s. 46.90 or 55.043 the alleged abuse, neglect, or financial
exploitation.

(2) Nothing in this section may be construed as eliminating or
limiting a person’s requirement to report under any other statute
or regulation.

NOTE: Section 52.32 was created as s. 53.32 by 2017 Wis. Act 345 and renum-
bered to s. 52.32 by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.
History: 2017 a. 345; s. 13.92 (1) (bm) 2.; Stats. 2017 s. 52.32.