

How Self-Advocates Can Help Their Peers to Make Supported Decision-Making Agreements

Chester Finn | April 14, 2022

What I Did



Last year, I worked with MASS on a tool for making supported decision-making agreements



We asked 9 self-advocates what they thought about the tool MASS had created



I came up with 10 tips for how self-advocates can help peers make their own agreements

1. Give people time to think about what a question means to them and say things in their own words.

2. Give people the chance to ask about something that they don't understand before you explain it to them.

3. Make sure all facilitators know their roles and give each other time to do their parts.



4. Be prepared to do role play to help explain things on the agreement tool.

5. Keep track of time and don't spend too much time on one thing.




6. Focus on support for *deciding* things, not support for doing things.



7. Spend a good amount of time talking about who could be good supporters and what good support looks like.

8. Make sure people talk about the support that they *want* in the future, not just the kinds of support that they are getting now.

9. Talk about how the person will use the agreement in their lives and try to educate them about other ways they could use it, too.



10. Share examples from your own life about hard decisions you made with support.





Questions?