

How to Make the Tough Decisions for a Person Under Guardianship: Sometimes No is the Right Answer

National Guardianship Association Annual Conference

Palm Springs, California

Presented by:

Joyce Meckna

Objectives

1. Participants will explore critical thinking techniques for considering client requests
 - a. Identify critical thinking techniques for problem solving
 - b. Look at some ways to define the problem and consider the outcome from various points of views
2. Participants will consider possible information sources for decision making
 - a. What sources would have valuable information for this decision
 - b. Is the source someone/something I should consider (We all deal with “well-meaning family and friends
3. Participants will learn to define the top considerations for decision making
 - a. What is the main pro and con for this decision
 - b. Is the outcome beneficial to my person under guardianship – ultimately
 - c. How to protect their right to fail and keep them safe

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is not the accumulation of facts or information, rather it is thinking about what is relevant to arrive at the best possible solution in the circumstances based on the information and facts we have gathered. It is about being an active learner rather than a passive listener.

Five Steps in Decision Making

1. Define your task, issue or problem – What is the issue you are trying to solve? Be specific – it is helpful if you can state it clearly and in one sentence. Be careful to state only the request and not the reason for it all in the same sentence.
2. Understand your why - Why is your client asking for this? What need are they expressing will be met by this request?
3. Consider your sources and gather information - Who has information that would be relevant to this issue?
4. Apply the information and ask questions - Challenge your assumptions. Are you applying logic to the situation? What are the main pros and cons? Is the outcome beneficial to my person under guardianship long-term and not just about making them happy today? If this fails are they and others safe?
5. Make your decision known – Share your decision with your team and professionals involved. Plan the implementation with your client.