

Support for Persons with Down Syndrome COMPARISON CHART

WHO HAS CONTROL?	GUARDIANSHIP / CONSERVATORSHIP	ADULT ADOPTION	DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY	SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
Individual with Down Syndrome makes their own choice		✓		✓
Individual with Down Syndrome chooses someone to make the choice for them			✓	
Individual with Down Syndrome has no control over who makes their life choices	✓			
DO I NEED A LAWYER?				
You should obtain the services of a Lawyer (strongly recommended)	✓	✓	✓	
Lawyer optional				✓



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COST	GUARDIANSHIP / CONSERVATORSHIP	ADULT ADOPTION	DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY	SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
Hundreds of dollars	✓	✓		
Depends (Can be hundreds, can be less)			✓	
Free				✓
TYPICALLY HOW LONG BEFORE IT TAKES EFFECT?				
Weeks			✓	
Months	✓	✓		
Immediately				✓

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DO I HAVE TO GO TO COURT?	GUARDIANSHIP / CONSERVATORSHIP	ADULT ADOPTION	DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY	SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
Yes	✓	✓		
No			✓	✓
IS THERE RISK OF ABUSE?				
Yes ***	✓	✓	✓	✓
No				

*** Abusers will always seek a way to exploit whatever system is in place. Thus, it is recommended that more than one person is appointed to provide support (when possible). This will help to keep each person accountable.