

## 9.5 INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The people we support have the same rights as other citizens to have a voice in directing all aspects of their lives. Along with that power to choose comes the responsibility to respect the rights of others.

This policy guides staff in understanding and respecting the various legal decision-making authorities relevant to individuals supported at BACI. Ensuring clarity around decision-making authority is critical to ethical, legal, and effective service delivery.

### Guiding principles

- Person-centered Approach – Respect and promote the individual's preferences, values, and right to make decisions.
- Autonomy First – Maximize independence and use the least restrictive form of decision-making support required.
- Legal Compliance – Follow BC laws, including:
  - Adult Guardianship Act
  - Representation Agreement Act
  - Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act
  - Patients Property Act

Making an informed decision is often a complex process. We recognize that all people have varying abilities and motivations to fully comprehend and consider all the potential ramifications of decisions for themselves and others.

We therefore recognize that some people may have Substitution decision-makers in their lives – legal Representatives or legal Guardians. Good support should involve asking the supported person who they'd like (or is legally bound) to help with decisions.

It is our primary goal to ensure that people are always involved in decisions that will affect their lives. We will endeavor to provide them with the necessary information that will permit them to make informed choices themselves.

This includes:

- The range of options from which to choose;
- The positive and negative ramifications of each choice.

### Linking Policies

- 1.1 Vision & Mission Statements
- 1.2 Guiding Principles
- 1.8 Code of Ethics
- 1.12 Corporate Responsibility Policy
- 9.1 Rights & Responsibilities of People with Disabilities