**Types of Guardianship Alternatives – the Person with a Disability can decide which is the best option. More than one option can be used!**

1. **A Supported decision making agreement.** This is a document that lets a person with a disability choose a supporter (usually a family member). The supporter can help them access information from third parties, help them process and understand the information, and can communicate their decisions to other people.

A supported decision making agreement is ideal for a person who needs help with communication and with understanding their options.

A supporter does not have the right to make decisions for the person with the disability. They can only help them.

1. **A release under a Supported Decision making agreement**. Sometimes a third party will just want a release for their file that shows the supporter has the right to access information.
2. **A durable power of attorney**. This can be used to delegate decisions and powers to another person. This is ideal for bank accounts, insurance, education, or public benefits.
3. **An authorized representative form** If the person with a disability receives Medicaid, this form lets them choose an authorized representative who will get notices and can renew their benefits for them.
4. **A medical power of attorney**. This only if a doctor says the person with a disability does not have capacity to make decisions for him or herself.

6. **Representative payee for Social Security.** No legal document is usually required. Social Security will appoint a representative payee if a person cannot manage their benefits because of a lack of capacity to do so.