



Power of Attorney and Guardianship

Transcript

Susan Beayni: We've been very fortunate to be connected with organizations that have supported Rebecca in terms of having her story told. One of the areas that Rebecca's story is beginning to influence is the policy around power of attorney and guardianship. For individuals who have needs like Rebecca, who cannot speak, oftentimes they cannot sign a power of attorney. And presently the only thing that is available to them is guardianship, where someone else would take over full decision-making powers for them.

Presently in Ontario, the only option for individuals like Rebecca would be full guardianship where someone else would make full decisions for her as an adult. Someone who could speak and make decisions on their own could sign a power of attorney. The difficulty with guardianship is manifold. One is that in many ways you lose your rights as a citizen and other people could make full decisions for you without any kind of consultation with you.

So Rebecca is helping in her story, through organizations--even the Canadian Association for Community Living are trying to find a way of having supported decision-making become a policy, be entrenched in policy so that even if you couldn't speak you would be supported in making decisions about your own life and what is best for you.

