



Susan Beayni - Support Circles, Paid Companions

Transcript

Susan: We believe that in a support circle that the people who gather as part of a support circle are people who are not paid to be in Rebecca's life. It's not like a case conference or anything like that. That doesn't mean that a support circle might not occasionally invite a professional to come in with some advice or in order to share with them some information, but the actual core circle are freely given relations, people who are giving freely of their time.

In terms of Rebecca's friends, many of them have started out in a paid relationship with Rebecca, where Rebecca was paying them to be a support person, and eventually a relationship developed where even when they were no longer paid they remained friends. I am a strong believer that you can't say just because somebody is paid they can't be a friend or vice versa. But to us, a friend is someone who would still be around even if they weren't being paid. That's how we distinguish the two. But it's often an entry point for somebody to get to know somebody.

