Ohio Revised Code

Section 5126.043 Decisions by individuals with mental retardation or other developmental disability; authorization for decision by adult; decisions by guardian.

Effective: September 29, 2013

Legislation: House Bill 59 - 130th General Assembly

(A) Unless a guardian has been appointed for the individual, when a decision regarding receipt of a service or participation in a program provided for or funded under this chapter or Chapter 5123. or 5124. of the Revised Code by an individual with mental retardation or other developmental disability must be made, the individual shall be permitted to make the decision. The individual may obtain support and guidance from an adult family member or other person, but doing so does not affect the right of the individual to make the decision.

(B) An individual with mental retardation or other developmental disability may authorize an adult to make a decision described in division (A) of this section on the individual's behalf, as long as the adult does not have a financial interest in the decision. The authorization shall be made in writing.

(C) If a guardian has been appointed for an individual with mental retardation or other developmental disability, the guardian shall make any decision described in division (A) of this section on behalf of the individual. This section does not require appointment of a guardian.

(D) Individuals with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities, including those who have been adjudicated incompetent pursuant to Chapter 2111. of the Revised Code, have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives and to have their needs, desires, and preferences considered. An adult or guardian who makes a decision pursuant to division (B) or (C) of this section shall make a decision that is in the best interests of the individual on whose behalf the decision is made and that is consistent with the needs, desires, and preferences of that individual.