

Rutledge Center

Informed Choice on Work and Community Options

What is Informed Choice?

Informed choice is the process of choosing from options based on accurate information and knowledge. These options are developed by a partnership consisting of the consumer and the Rutledge staff member that will empower the consumer to make decisions resulting in a successful outcome.

What are Rutledge Center responsibilities in Informed Choice?

To provide you with sufficient information about your options so you can make choices for yourself and to assist you in making decisions if you need help.

What are my responsibilities in Informed Choice?

To discuss with your Direct Support Staff (DSS) or Developmental Disability Professional (DDP) your interests, preferences, experience, education, and goals so that they can assist you in exploring and selecting goals and services you want to have in your Individual Service Plan (ISP).

- To work with your DSS in developing options and gathering information.
- To make decisions and take actions based on the information you and your team of support have developed together.

What else can I expect from the Rutledge Center to support me in making Informed Choices?

You can expect that the Rutledge Center will:

- Let you know about Informed Choice in a way that you can understand it.
- Provide you with sufficient information so you can make Informed Choices about services and service providers.
- Enable you to make choices about your long-term vocational goal, your intermediate goals, the services and the service providers that you want to have in your ISP..
- Allow for a change in your Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor if you feel a change is needed.
- Include in your meetings with your counselor a person(s) of your choice who can assist you in your rehabilitation process.

May I consider any job goals, services or service providers?

You may discuss any options with your support staff. Your support staff will assist you in exploring ideas as well as make suggestions for you to consider.

May I choose any job goals, services or service providers I want?

You will certainly be able to choose from among what you and your DSS/DPP decide are good options for you. That is why it is so important for you to spend the time you need with your staff to identify good options. Sometimes there may be things you would like to do or places you would like to go for services that you will not be able to choose because of laws, regulations, and qualification issues and so on. Any time you face these kinds of limits to choosing what you want, your support staff will fully explain the reason for it. Occasionally, your choices may be limited by your disability, and your support staff will explain this to you. For example, a person who is legally blind cannot get a driver's license and, therefore, cannot be employed as a truck driver.

What if I feel strongly about something I want or need and my team says "no"?

If, after your discussions with your team, your team says "no" to a goal, service or a service provider that you want, you have several options. You may talk to the supervisor or director to get another opinion or more options.

What is Transition?

Transition is clearly about moving a member/client from workshop programs into a range of different community employment sites that are based on the client's skill set, preferences and interests.

Rutledge Center services endeavors to ensure that **all** available vocational and community options are presented to members/clients. They have the right to choose where they live, work and the activities they are involved in within their local communities. Clients must be able to make informed decisions by having up to date information and knowledge about all available options. Information should be presented in a variety of ways to ensure the client understands their options.

When appropriate the Rutledge Center job readiness services will match client's aspirations to the service that will most likely to meet their goals.