



**Michigan Partners for Freedom** is a grassroots coalition of people with disabilities, family members, advocates, organizations and other allies working together to build statewide demand for self-determination.

We uphold the principles of self-determination for all Michigan citizens.

## **What do the Principles of Self-Determination Mean for Me?**

**FREEDOM** - People with disabilities must be free to decide how to live their own lives.

*That means:*

- Choosing where and with whom you want to live
- Choosing what you want to do and where and when you want to work
- Being free to do the things that interest you
- Creating the support system you want and choosing support that fit your needs and your personality
- Taking risks and possibly failing

**AUTHORITY** - People with disabilities must have the authority to determine where and how to spend the public funds.

*That means:*

- Knowing and controlling the public funds allotted to you
- Deciding what aspects of your life should receive the most attention
- Having the authority to hire and fire people who serve you
- Having your preferences heard and your decisions followed

**SUPPORT** - People with disabilities must be allowed to organize resources in formal and informal ways that enhance their lives and are meaningful to them as individuals.

*That means:*

- Being free to choose your caregivers
- Gathering input from people who care about you
- Being allowed to fund the support services that are best suited to your situation
- Being free to switch services and service providers if your situation changes or you're dissatisfied

**RESPONSIBILITY-** people with disabilities must be given responsibility for the wise use of public funds and must be recognized for the contributions they make to their communities.

*That means:*

- Receiving competitive wages for competitive work
- Being held accountable for the decisions you make
- Making good financial choices that support clearly defined goals
- Being given the chance to volunteer in the community and participate in community events

## **CONFIRMATION**

People with disabilities must be allowed to play important, meaningful roles in restructuring the system.

*That means:*

- Sharing your opinion with people in decision-making roles
- Being free of retaliation
- Acting as a change agent by taking part in the legislative process
- Offering constructive ideas for change

Reprinted from [Partners in Living](#)-- a self-study course created to help people with developmental disabilities, their family and friends explore four important elements that, together, can help them create a meaningful life: Self-Determination, Family Support, Community Living and Assistive Technology. [The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

**Michigan Partners for Freedom**  
c/o The Arc Michigan  
1325 South Washington Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910  
800 292-7851 X 106  
[www.mifreedom.org](http://www.mifreedom.org)

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