

# Representation Agreements

## Self-Determination for All Adults

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### What is a Representation Agreement?

- A Representation Agreement is a legal document that an adult (19 years or older) may make to appoint someone to assist them with decision making.
- The test of incapability to make a Representation Agreement Section 7 (RA7) is different from other laws such as Power of Attorney. An adult is capable of making an RA7 even if they cannot manage their own finances or make health care decisions. There is no specific criteria for making an RA7.
- As with any legal document, learning what it means and how to use it is necessary for ensuring an effective Agreement. See the other side of this page for information on where to get help.

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### Why should adults make one?

- All adults have a right to self-determination and to support if they need assistance with decision making.
- No one has the automatic right to sign or act on behalf of an adult—not a spouse, parent, other family member or service provider. An RA7 is a way an adult may give someone legal authority.
- An RA7 covers four life areas, so adults have access to help as needed:
  - » *Health* - consent to health care including medications, surgery, tests, dental care.
  - » *Personal Care* - living arrangements, diet, exercise, taking part in activities, personal safety.
  - » *Legal* - settling insurance claims, getting legal help, hiring a lawyer, representation in court.
  - » *Financial* - doing banking, dealing with Canada Revenue, managing settlement funds (eg. Woodlands, ICBC).
- Before the RA7, adults who needed assistance with decision making were especially vulnerable to losing their rights and becoming a ‘non-person’ under guardianship (also called Committeeship).
- A representative is not like a guardian. They do not take over management of the adult’s life; they assist the adult to direct their own life.

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### How will it help?

- When a youth turns 19, parental rights end and the child-parent relationship is re-defined. Making an RA7 helps with this transition.
- An RA7 provides continuity of support for older adults with disabilities and gives peace-of-mind to their aging parents as they plan for a time of the parents’ incapability or death.
- An RA7 strengthens an existing network. An RA7 is also a way to help create a personal support network where none may exist.

# Learn More & Get Help from Nidus



## Self-Help Information

[www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca) --> photo *Helping a Relative with a Disability*

- Steps for helping an adult make an RA7.
  - » Who can be appointed,
  - » Where to get the forms,
  - » Signing and witnessing requirements, and more.
- Frequently Asked Questions, more resources.



## Personal Help by Appointment

[www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca) --> sidebar *BOOK NOW*

- Discuss your specific situation and the Representation Agreement form that fits. Save time and avoid mistakes.
- Advice and tips when using the Agreement with financial institutions and for health care.



## Registration

[www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca) --> menu bar *Registry*

- Register a copy of your completed Agreement with Nidus so it is available when needed.
- Registration details are included with all Nidus RA forms.