



*Easy Read Edition*

**The Right to Make Choices:  
International Laws and Decision-  
Making by People with Disabilities**

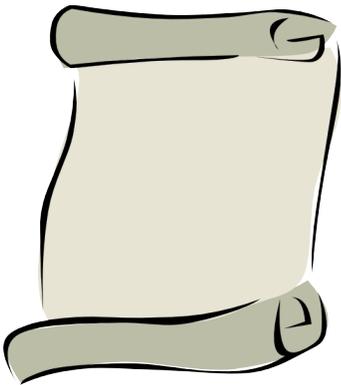
**Part 4: Convention on the Rights  
of People with Disabilities**

## 4. Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

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- The **Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)** is an agreement by many countries to respect the rights of people with disabilities.



- The word “convention” here means “treaty” or “agreement,” not “conference.”

- **The CRPD includes:**

- the right to make choices.

- **The CRPD also includes:**

- freedom from discrimination or violence,

- the right to have a family,

- the right to live and work in the community,

- and the right to accessible roads, schools, information, housing, and other resources.



## Article 12 of the CRPD says that:



1. Judges and courts must recognize people with disabilities as people.



2. Governments must recognize people with disabilities as people.

- People with disabilities can make decisions for themselves.



3. People with disabilities need some help or supports. Governments must make sure that support is available.

- Governments must create **supported decision-making** programs.



4. Governments must protect people with disabilities from abuse.

- Governments cannot give authority to someone who might abuse their power.
- Governments need to respect a person's decisions.



5. Governments need to make sure that people with disabilities have the same right to:

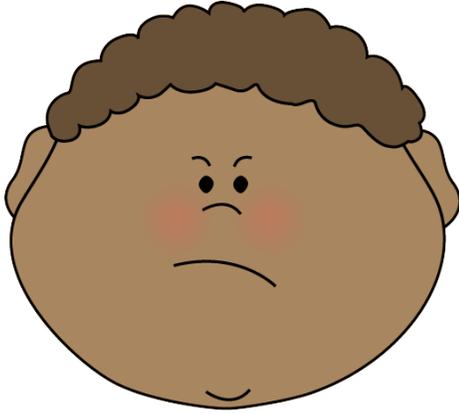
- own money or property
- inherit money or property from their relatives
- and do all the same things with their money that people without disabilities can do.
- For example, take out loans or use credit cards.
- People with disabilities should not have their money or property taken away from them for no reason.



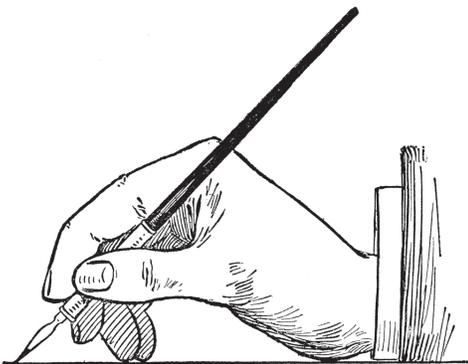
## Almost every country in the world has signed the CRPD.

- Almost every country in the world has signed the CRPD, and most countries have “**ratified**” it.
  - “Ratifying” something means that the country now has to follow the rules that are in the CRPD.
- Some countries have **signed** the CRPD but have not “ratified” it, which means that they agree with the idea of respecting the rights of people with disabilities but don’t have to follow its rules.
- The names of the countries on the CRPD are [on this webpage.](#)

- Many of the countries that signed the CRPD have **guardianship** laws.



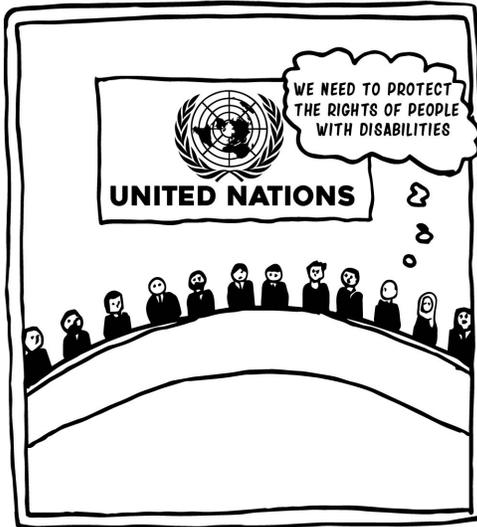
- Many countries' guardianship laws break the CRPD, because they allow the court to take away the rights of people who could make their own decisions if they had the right supports.



- Some countries have already started trying to change their guardianship laws to respect people's rights under the CRPD.

- In other countries, people with disabilities have sued in court, saying that under the CRPD, they have the right to be free from guardianship.

# The CRPD: An Illustration



SIGN AND RATIFY,  
AND THE CRPD IS AS GOOD AS LAW.

SIGN, BUT DON'T RATIFY,  
AND YOU AGREE, BUT YOU CAN'T GET CALLED INTO COURT!

Illustration by Pip Malone

# Glossary

# Glossary

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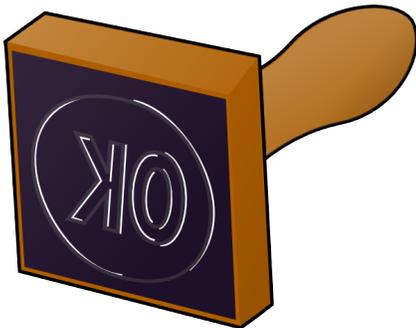
## Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)

An agreement among countries about the rights of people with disabilities. It is an international law. Article 12 protects people's right to make decisions about their own lives. Most countries have agreed to follow the CRPD, but not all. Many countries that agreed to follow it are still not fully protecting the decision-making rights in Article 12. Those countries that have agreed to follow the CRPD, but are not following Article 12, may risk being taken to court.



## Guardianship

An arrangement where someone is appointed by law to make decisions about another person's life. In many countries, guardians will be appointed for disabled adults who are seen as unable to make their own decisions. Guardianship could be a Full Guardianship or a Limited Guardianship.



## Ratification

This is what happens when a country agrees to follow the rules of an agreement or treaty created by multiple countries. If a country ratifies an agreement, they can be called into court if they break the rules of the agreement.

Countries that agree with the treaty or agreement but don't want to follow the rules have not ratified it. They can't get called into court over it.

## Supported Decision-Making



A way to make decisions. A person with a disability chooses someone to help them understand or communicate a decision.

The person with a disability is free to make their own decision but has help from the supporter.