

# The Role of the Independent Facilitator in Self-Determination

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# Legal Definition of a Facilitator

*“Independent facilitator” means a person, selected and directed by the participant, who is not otherwise providing services to the participant pursuant to his or her IPP and is not employed by a person providing services to the participant. The independent facilitator may assist the participant in making informed decisions about the individual budget, and in locating, accessing, and coordinating services and supports consistent with the participant’s IPP.*

# Translation

- The person in charge, or the “participant,” chooses the facilitator.
- The facilitator cannot be someone who provides direct services to the participant and cannot work for a program that provides services to the participant.
- The Facilitator helps the participant understand their budget.
- The Facilitator helps the participant find services to meet their needs as identified in the participant’s IPP.

## Definition (cont'd)

*He or she is available to assist in identifying immediate and long-term needs, developing options to meet those needs, leading, participating, or advocating on behalf of the participant in the person-centered planning process and development of the IPP, and obtaining identified services and supports.*

# Translation

- The Facilitator leads the Person-Centered Planning process and makes sure that the focus stays on the participant.
- The Facilitator makes sure all the services identified are included in the participant's IPP.
- The Facilitator finds the specific services and supports the participant's needs.

## Definition (cont'd)

*The cost of the independent facilitator, if any, shall be paid by the participant out of his or her individual budget. An independent facilitator shall receive training in the principles of self-determination, the person-centered planning process, and the other responsibilities described in this paragraph at his or her own cost.*

# Translation

- The participant pays the Facilitator with money from their individual budget.
- The Facilitator must know what Self-Determination is and understand the Person-Centered Planning process.
- The Facilitator has to pay for any training they might need with their own money.
- The Facilitator can offer his or her services free of charge.

## Other Requirements

*The participant may utilize the services of an independent facilitator of his or her own choosing for the purpose of providing services and functions as described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c). If the participant elects not to use an independent facilitator, he or she may use his or her regional center service coordinator to provide the services and functions described in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c).*



# Translation

- The participant does not have to use a Facilitator.
- The participant can use their regional center service coordinator as their facilitator if they choose.

# What about Qualifications?

- The law describes what Facilitators are supposed to do.
- The law says a Facilitator “shall receive training” on Self-Determination and Person-Centered Planning.
- The law says a Facilitator can’t currently be providing direct services to the participant and can’t have a criminal record.

# **Can a Family Member or a Friend Be a Facilitator?**

Yes. As long as the family member or friend doesn't currently provide direct services to the participant, understands what Self-Determination is and knows how to do a Person-Centered Plan, has received the required training, and doesn't have a criminal record.

# From the 12/11/15 CMS Letter

## 21. Independent Facilitator

- a. Please more clearly define this service. Please further explain how this service does not duplicate services provided by the service coordinator, advocacy services, or financial management services.
- b. How will these individuals be trained? How is the training different from that of service providers and/or financial management service coordinators?
- c. 700 participants are estimated to use the service starting WY1, is there a workforce of already trained Independent Facilitators to provide services starting WY1?

**Questions?**