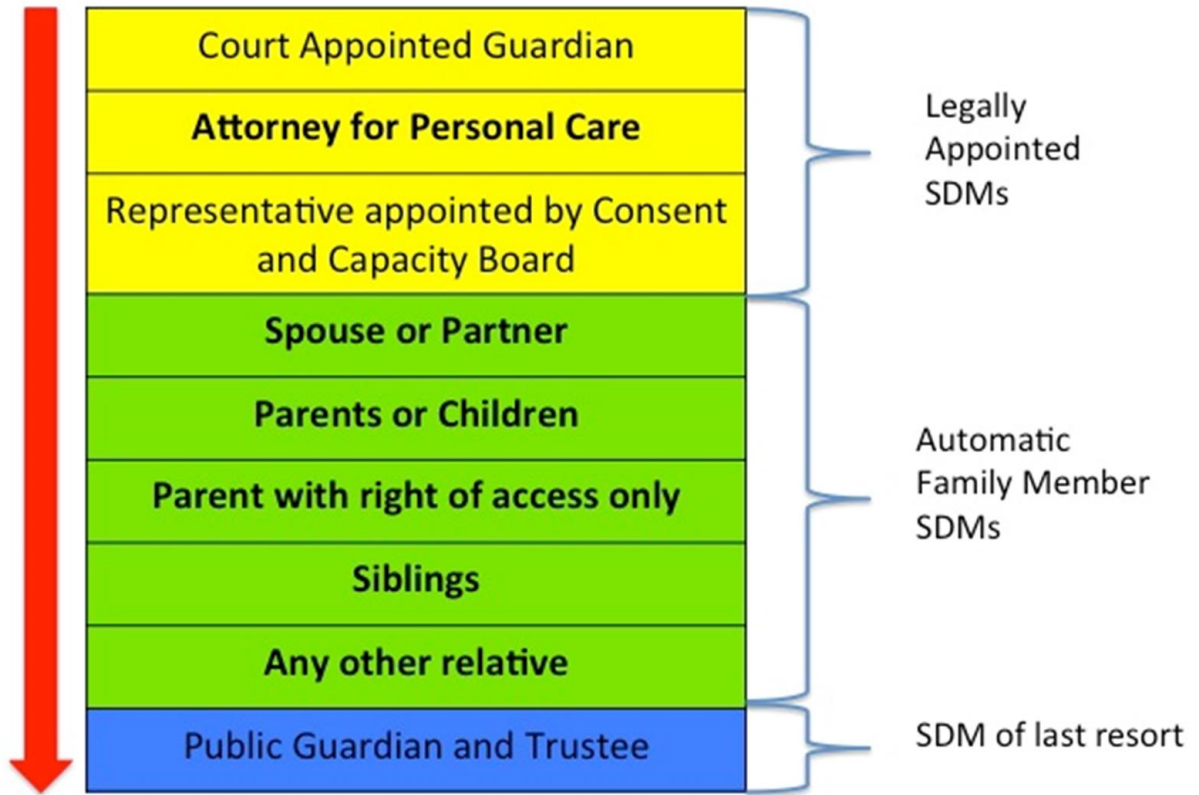


The Hierarchy of Substitute Decision Makers

The person(s) in your life that are the highest ranked in this hierarchy and that meet the requirements to act as a SDM(s) will be your SDM for health care.



Ontario Health Care Consent Act, 1996

Note. When a person has multiple people at the same level of the hierarchy (e.g. several children) they are all equally ranked SDM(s) and must make decisions together or, they must choose amongst themselves which of them will act as the SDM(s). If more than one person wants to act as an SDM, they must agree on any decisions. If they cannot agree, then the healthcare team will turn to the Public Guardian and Trustee who will make decisions in their stead.

When do SDM(s) make health care decisions?

SDM(s) only make health care decisions on your behalf when you are not mentally capable to make your decisions yourself.

Requirements to be an SDM

The person(s) highest in the hierarchy can act as SDM(s) only if they are:

- Willing to act as the SDM
- Mentally capable to make the needed health decisions
- Available (in person, by phone or by some other means) when a decision needs to be made
- Not prohibited by a court order or separation agreement from acting as the SDM and,
- At least 16 years of age (unless they are the parent of the incapable person)