



## Representation Agreements (RA7)



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In our last edition we introduced the topic of Representation Agreements (RA7) We touched on

- Some basic facts
- Why Make a Representation Agreement?
- What are the Roles that can be assigned in a Representation Agreement?
- What areas does the adult need help with now and in the future?
- What is the difference between Adult Guardianship & a Representation Agreement?

In this edition we are going to review authority and capability.

### What if the adult is not capable of giving someone authority?

In the legal context, capability has traditionally been associated with cognitive or intellectual ability—does he or she understand?—even though there is no universal measure for this. The Representation Agreement Act takes a different approach. It recognizes that capability is unique to the individual and relies on many variables.

### What is YOUR view of capability?

- My daughter cannot read or write...
- OR
- My daughter claps her hands and nods her head when she likes something.

### How is your relative or friend capable?

- What are some of their likes and dislikes?
- How do they communicate their likes and dislikes – their choices - Sounds, gestures, behaviors?

### The Representation Agreement Act Section 7 is based on new understandings about capability.

#### Under the RA7:

- An adult is presumed capable until it is demonstrated they are not.
- The way an adult communicates is not a factor in determining their capability –some adults communicate through their behavior.
- There is NO specific test of capability for making an RA7 - This means there is NO one-test fits all and we can look at each adult individually to see how they are capable of making an RA7.
- An adult may make a Representation Agreement with Section 7 standard powers even if he or she cannot manage his or her affairs or make decisions independently.

Reference: Nidus Personal Planning and Resource Centre and Registry - [www.nidus.ca](http://www.nidus.ca)

### Signing and Witnessing

The adult must make their own mark on the Representation Agreement

- Adult signs first in front of the witnesses. Signing means making a mark. It is important the adult signs voluntarily.
- NO Hand over Hand
- Adult makes a Mark - The adult does not have to sign or print their name or initials or X. Their mark might be a dot, line, circle, etc. It also does not have to ‘stay in the lines.’
- There must be two suitable witnesses at the signing of the RA7

### Can the representation Agreement be changed or cancelled later?

Yes. The adult, can revoke (cancel) the Agreement. The law sets out procedures to do this.

The law also says how a representative can resign.

### General hints

#### a. When you give a copy or introduce the Agreement to the bank or hospital, be sure to:

- Keep the focus on how your relative is capable
- Talk about how you are ASSISTING them
- This will help others give recognition to Representation Agreements and the adult you support

#### b. If you are taking the Agreement to a financial institution for the first time:

- Take the ORIGINAL.
- Meet with a manager or assistant manager
- Let the institution make a photocopy of the original and stamp it to say it is a true copy
- Ensure they return the original to you and put the copy in their file

Starting in October we will begin including “Family Matters” as a section of the CLS Communicator newsletter. If you have information you would like to include, we would love to hear from you.

We enjoy hearing from you!

Do you wish to connect with a program Coordinator or Director?  
Do you have a compliment or concern?  
Contact the Director of Quality and Innovation - Roxanne Wiseman  
604-517-2032 or  
[rwiseman@communitylivingsociety.ca](mailto:rwiseman@communitylivingsociety.ca)

# ROMANCE, RELATIONSHIPS, & RIGHTS

## A Family Member's Perspective About the Theatrical Performance of Romance, Relationships and Rights

submitted by: Ruth Schiebe



Ruth, Aaron and Tom at the Romance, Relationships and Rights performance in New Westminster



Performers in Romance, Relationships and Rights performance at Anvil Centre in New Westminster on Wednesday, May 16, 2019 (Ben Nelms/CBC)

What if able bodied people could trade places with disabled individuals. Would they have a better understanding of what it means to have a disability and the resulting challenges? The late John Belluso, an American playwright said “Disabled people understand the world in a different way... you understand what it is like to be stared at...”

I am privileged to be the grandmother of a very special young man who starred in “Romance, Relationships and Rights.” I was unsure what to expect when I heard the performance was called “Sex, Lies, and Citizenships” However, I was pleasantly surprised when I attended the performance which was renamed “Romance, Relationships and Rights”.

The play was enlightening. It addressed various issues such as meeting someone online, self-advocacy, how to succeed in relationships, safety awareness, and respecting each other's privacy. Respect and acceptance was demonstrated very well in a scenario which made reference to the LGBTQ lifestyle. One of the issues addressed was being dependent on others for transportation. Handydart was quoted as a humorous example.

The play provided insight into what it feels like to live with a disability and the many challenges those individuals face. It dispelled myths and left the audience with a better understanding about disabled people. I look forward to attending future theatrical productions like this.

## Are You Interested in Being a CLS Board Member?

Community Living Society is an organization with a compelling past and an inspired future. The Board of Directors is dedicated to ensuring the Community Living Society lives up to its Mission of Supporting People to Live as Full Citizens. To lead the CLS into the future, we are seeking Board Directors with a variety of skills that will help guide the CLS. We are looking for Directors whose experience and involvement in the community will be an asset to our organization.

The CLS Board comprises a dedicated group of volunteers from every walk of life who have come together to contribute their professional and personal talents for the benefit of the Society. This group includes family members, people with disabilities, and people with diverse expertise and backgrounds.

If you are interested in finding out more about being a CLS Board Director please contact:

Dawn Palmer, Board Chair

[dpalmer@langara.ca](mailto:dpalmer@langara.ca)

“The longest relationship you have with your child is when you are both adults”  
– CLBC presenter

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