

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## ***Screening for Decision-Making Ability When Working with APS Clients***

This training is Module 17 of the NAPSA Core Competency Curriculum and designed for Instructor-Led facilitation for either in-person or virtually.

APS professionals are tasked with ensuring people's rights to self-determination are respected while also working to keep the person safe and healthy. Assessing and determining if clients have the ability to make informed decisions about their situations and care, is one of the greatest challenges faced by APS professionals. In this introductory training, participants will find opportunities to apply the fundamentals of screening for decision-making ability to their daily tasks in the field of APS work.

**Goal:** The purpose of this workshop is to assist Adult Protective Services professionals in identifying the factors that affect their client's decisional capacity, and to identify when to seek a professional evaluation.

**Learning Objectives:** Upon completion of this training session, participants will be better able to:

1. Define autonomy and decision-making incapacity
2. Distinguish between decision-making capacity and decision-making ability
3. Describe factors that may influence a client's decision-making ability
4. Identify key questions and approaches used to screen client decision-making ability, including working with special populations.
5. Identify implications for case planning as a result of a finding of limited decision-making capacity

**Course Requirements:** It is strongly recommended that participants have completed Modules 1 (APS Overview), 2 (Ethics, Values and Cultural Responsiveness) and 9 (Communication and Interviewing) of the NAPSA Core Competency Curriculum prior to attending this training. The Core Competency Curriculum can be found at <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/apswi/core-competency-areas/>

If training virtually, participants will need access to a computer with video conferencing capability and be able to connect to the virtual platform being used to deliver this training. A headset or earbuds with microphone and a video camera are highly encouraged.

**Target Audience:** This course is designed for new APS professionals as well as Vulnerable Adult Abuse partners (e.g. conservatorship investigators, workers in the aging and disability networks, law enforcement). This training is also appropriate for senior staff that require knowledge and/or skills review.