

Only I Can Know: My Opinion on Direct Support Professionals

Author Information

Allison Lauren Bobbette, Barrie Ontario.

Hello, My Name, is Allison Lauren Bobbette and I am a 40-year-old woman with a disability. Having a disability is very much a big, beautiful part of who I am.

I have completed all of my schooling and graduated with honors from the Sault College CICE Program. I am on the Board of Directors at the Empower Simcoe agency. I have been advocating for people with disabilities for many years of my life.

Abstract

My Reflection is about Direct Support Workers helping me with the things I need help with.

I do think that the Direct Support Professionals have helped give me room to grow and confidence in knowing that I can do a lot of things. Even more things than I was thinking that I could do. I feel that Direct support professionals are so important.

How Direct Support Professionals help me

They provide so much from a social viewpoint, from providing transportation, to providing general support. They also provide support to me if I am having a bad day.

I am lucky that I have had experiences with a lot of Direct Support Professionals.

All of the Direct Support Professionals are different. And they have all brought unique experiences to my life.

Only I can know how the connection with my Direct Support Professional feels

I feel that because I have been around so many different Direct Support Professionals, I can also tell when I feel like my worker really enjoys the work and looks at as more than just a job. Only I can know this. I feel it.

I can also tell when my Direct Support Professional looks at me as just a job. I have had to let some Direct support Professionals go as it was not the right fit. I also could just feel that the Direct support Professional was not genuine in their support that they were providing.

Choosing our DSPs

The last point of note that I would like to say in this article about direct support Professionals is that I feel like it would be awesome if we could find a way to choose our own direct support professionals and be able to have interviews with them.

I feel like it would really help out supported people and their direct support professionals to have a better working connection if we got to choose our own Direct Support Professionals. This includes us doing the interviews with them. If we did, we would get to know them better.

It would help facilitate a better working connection between a Direct support Professional and client. It would be better than us just being assigned a direct support Professional.

The sector is changing – let us have a say

I feel that everything is changing so much in this sector that I feel that if the client feels comfortable and, depending on their ability to communicate, it would be good for them to have a say about who our DSP is. Of course, I know that it is easier said than done. It would require a lot of convincing and coordinating. But I think it would be positive change for the sector.

But overall, I feel that Direct support Professionals are awesome. I will say that once again I do enjoy having Direct Support Professionals in my life. They are a good group of people, and I do appreciate the great work that they do and the support that they give.