

# LifeSolutions® Corner

## Developing Effective Decision-Making Skills



**IT'S NOT EASY TO MAKE DECISIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THOSE DECISIONS IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE AND THE LIVES OF THOSE YOU INTERACT WITH ON A DAILY BASIS. THAT KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY CAN OFTEN CAUSE YOU TO AVOID THE ISSUE AND POSTPONE MAKING ANY DECISION AT ALL. WHEN THIS HAPPENS, IT CAN CREATE OPENINGS FOR THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF YOUR LIFE—FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, AND MAJOR EVENTS OR ISSUES—TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR YOU.**

Do you really want to hand over control of your life to random events or people who might not have your best interests in mind? It's time to put your life back into focus by following these tips and learning how to become a smarter decision-maker.

### **Avoiding Rushing Into a Decision**

You can't resolve a problem in your life if you don't know exactly what's happening. Take the time to consider what's happening, who might be involved, and how different outcomes might impact your life.

### **Look at All of the Options**

You can't use the same solution to solve every problem in your life. Be willing to step back and consider all the possible solutions—even the ones that aren't so obvious—to make the decision that's best for your needs.

### **Be Rational in Your Decision Making**

Everyday decisions can be made with your heart, but big decisions, life-altering decisions, should always be made with your head. Consider the pros and cons, and take the time to consider the short-term and long-term outcomes of your solution. Avoid making decisions off-the-cuff that might actually create more problems for you in the future.

### **Learn from Your Mistakes**

Not every decision you make is going to be the right one. Some solutions might start out fine but not work out over time. Pay attention to which decisions helped you reach your goals and which ones created additional roadblocks.

Consider the feedback you receive from those impacted by your decisions. Learn from those experiences and use that knowledge to help you make a better decision in the future.

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### **Featured Webinar:**

### **Developing Critical Thinking Skills**

The ability to make good decisions quickly and creatively solve problems sets some people apart. In fact, for many employers, it is often the most sought-after skill set. We all encounter a high volume of information every day. How do we know what is most important or reliable? Though most credit their ability to think critically with their experiences in school, can we cultivate this capacity in our daily personal or professional lives? The answer is yes!

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LifeSolutions is a confidential employee assistance program (EAP). Our services are available to you and members of your household at no cost.

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