

STORIES FROM HOME

Self-Direction during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Tyler is a 23 year-old who, with the support of his mother Valerie, self-directs his home and community-based services.

Tyler was born with cerebral palsy, a genetic abnormality, and a severe seizure disorder. He is unable to speak. Tyler's father and sister were hired as his paid employees who, with Valerie, provide 24/7 monitoring and care for Tyler.



Tyler's mother and sister both work in healthcare and have a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. So when the pandemic hit in early March, Tyler's doctor recommended that his mother and sister have no physical contact with Tyler.

Tyler has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and the family felt that hiring an additional worker was too dangerous. This means that Tyler's father is responsible for Tyler's round the clock care throughout the pandemic.



While it is extremely hard for Tyler's mother and sister not to have any physical contact with him during the pandemic, **the family is so grateful that through self-direction Tyler is able to receive the vigilant care he requires while remaining safe at home with his loved ones.**