Developing Effective Decision-Making Skills

It's not easy making 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, coworkers, and major events or issues – to make decisions for you.

Do you really want to hand over the control of your life to random events or people who might not have your best interests in mind? It's time you 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 of 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

Every day 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.