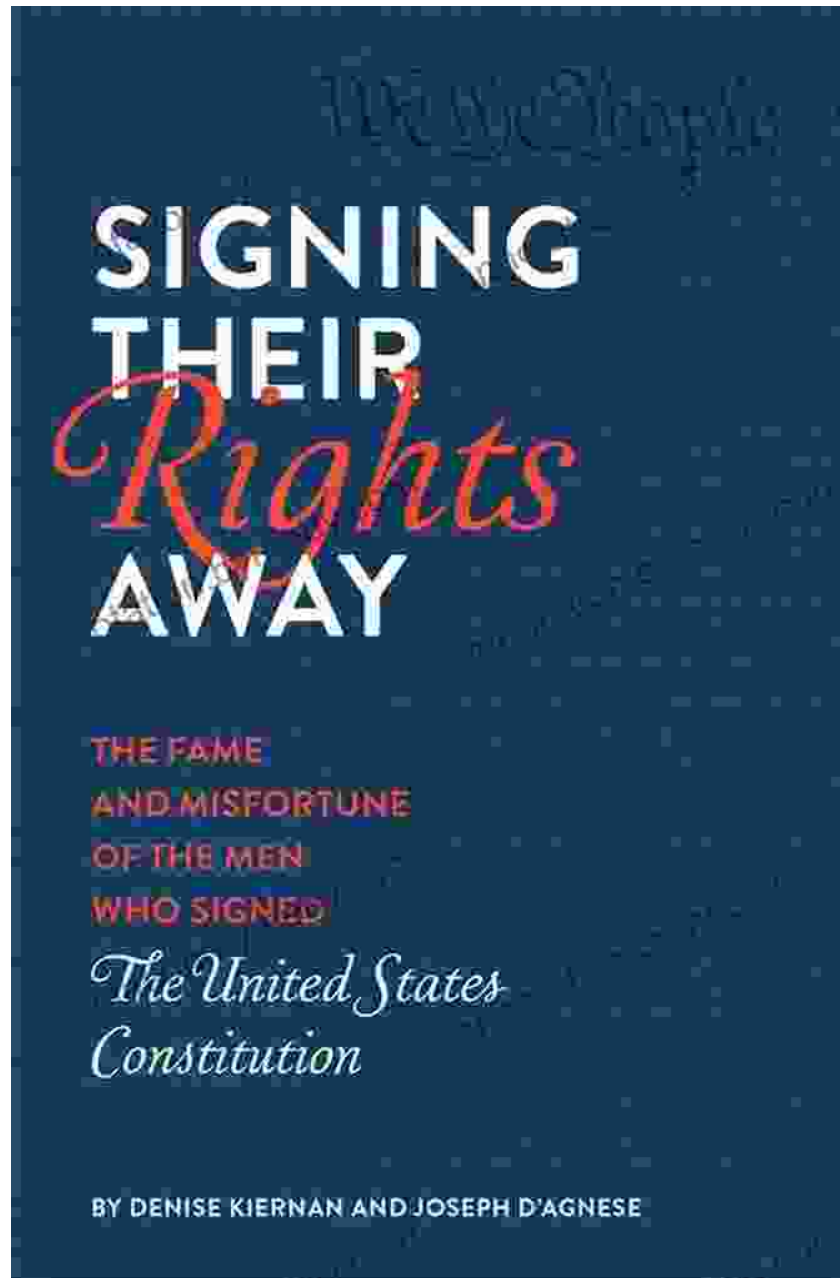


# Signing Their Rights Away: The Hidden Consequences of Disability Benefits



In the United States, millions of individuals with disabilities rely on government assistance programs to meet their basic needs. While these programs provide a lifeline for many, they also come with a hidden cost: the

erosion of personal rights. In her groundbreaking book, "Signing Their Rights Away," author and advocate Nancy Potok exposes the disturbing truth about the ways in which government dependency can undermine the autonomy and dignity of individuals with disabilities.



## Signing Their Rights Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the United States Constitution

by Denise Kiernan

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 28564 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 298 pages



### The Covenant of Dependency

At the heart of Potok's argument is the concept of the "covenant of dependency." This unspoken agreement between individuals with disabilities and the government creates a power imbalance that favors the latter. In exchange for financial assistance, individuals must surrender certain rights, including their right to make independent decisions about their lives.

This covenant of dependency manifests itself in various ways. For example, individuals receiving disability benefits may be subject to strict regulations that dictate their daily routines, medical care, and even their relationships. They may be required to attend regular appointments with

caseworkers, submit to invasive medical exams, and undergo psychological evaluations.

## **The Erosion of Autonomy**

The constant surveillance and control inherent in the covenant of dependency can have a devastating impact on the autonomy of individuals with disabilities. They may feel like they are losing control over their own lives and that their choices are being made for them. This can lead to feelings of powerlessness, resentment, and despair.

In her book, Potok provides numerous firsthand accounts of individuals who have experienced the erosion of their autonomy under the thumb of government programs. One such individual is a woman named Lisa, who was forced to undergo a series of harmful medical procedures in Free Download to maintain her eligibility for benefits.

"I felt like I was being treated like an animal," Lisa said. "I had no say in what was happening to my own body."

## **The Loss of Dignity**

In addition to eroding autonomy, the covenant of dependency can also lead to a loss of dignity. Individuals with disabilities may be subjected to degrading and humiliating treatment at the hands of government bureaucrats. They may be made to feel like they are burdens on society and that they are not worthy of respect.

Potok argues that this loss of dignity is particularly harmful for individuals with disabilities, who often face stigma and discrimination. When government programs reinforce these negative stereotypes, it can further

erode their self-esteem and make it difficult for them to live full and meaningful lives.

## A Call to Action

"Signing Their Rights Away" is a powerful indictment of the current system of disability benefits in the United States. Potok argues that it is time for a fundamental shift in the way we think about disability and dependency. She calls for a new approach that emphasizes empowerment, self-determination, and the inherent dignity of all individuals.

Potok's book is a must-read for anyone who cares about the rights of individuals with disabilities. It is a timely and important work that sheds light on a hidden injustice and calls for a more just and equitable society.



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