

Community Living: Laws, Rules, and Programs to Know About

Introduction

It is important for disabled people to live in the community.

The government made some laws, rules, and programs to help.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The **Americans with Disabilities Act** is a law that came out in 1990.

- People call it the ADA for short.

The ADA says that places in the community have to be **accessible** to disabled people.

- This means that disabled people have to be able to get there, and get inside. We have to be able to be a part of everything that happens there.

The *Olmstead* Decision

In 1999, two women living in an institution went to the **Supreme Court**.

- They did not want to live in the institution. They wanted to live in the community.
- They said that the ADA gave them the right to live in the community.

The **Supreme Court** said that the women were right.

- This was called the ***Olmstead* Decision**.
- It says states have to give people help to live in the community, and not just institutions.

Home and Community-Based Services

The government gives disabled people **long-term services and supports (LTSS)**.

- LTSS helps disabled people in our daily lives.
- Some kinds of LTSS are paid helpers, transportation, or job coaches.
- When LTSS happens in the community, it is called **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)**.
- The government pays for LTSS with **Medicaid**.
- Medicaid is a government program that gives health care to disabled people.

Medicaid gives money to both institutions and HCBS.

- They have some money just for HCBS.
- But there was a problem. Some institutions said they were really HCBS.
- Then Medicaid gave them HCBS money.
- That's not what HCBS money is for.

The government wants to make sure that HCBS money goes to the right place.

- They made a rule called the **HCBS Settings Rule**.
- This rule makes sure that HCBS money only goes to services in the community.
- It makes sure institutions can't take money meant for services in the community.

Money Follows the Person

Money Follows the Person is a government program.

- It helps people who are trying to move from an institution into the community.
- It makes sure that people still get the money and help they need.

Conclusion

These laws, rules, and programs help some people live in the community.

But it is still hard for a lot of other people to live in the community.

We want to help all disabled people live in the community.

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