A Brief History of Independent Housing

ALSO KNOWN AS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN OTHER STATES

For almost 40 years, residential services provided in the community have been the preferred residential option rather than living within institutional settings. The trends have increasingly supported smaller and more personalized settings while living as independently as possible with assistance. In 1999, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in the Olmstead v. L.C. decision that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), people could not be required to live in institutional settings if a less restrictive alternative could meet their needs.

THE IMPACT OF THE 1999 OLMSTEAD SUPREME COURT DECISION

In a landmark interpretation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Supreme Court held that people with disabilities have a right to receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate. Unnecessary institutionalization violates the ADA. Every state is implementing plans to meet the mandate of the Olmstead decision. Individuals living in institutions who choose to leave are transitioning into community placements. Despite the Olmstead mandate, Connecticut still operates institutions for individuals with I/DD, including Southbury Training School and Regional Centers.