

# NASDDDDS

*Easy Read Edition*

## **This Rule Rules!** **The HCBS Settings Rule** **And You**

**Part I: Community Living**

# Words to Know in Part I



## Community living

Living in the same places as people without disabilities.



## Institutions

Places where a lot of disabled people live. People living in institutions usually did not decide to live there. They were usually put there by someone else. The HCBS rule says a place is an institution if it has space for 16 or more people with disabilities to live there.



## Olmstead Decision

A decision the Supreme Court made. It says people with disabilities have a right to live in the community.



## Supreme Court

The U.S. court that has the final say on how laws work.

# Part I: Community Living

## What is community living?



People with disabilities don't want to live in separate places built for us.



We want to live with everyone else!



**Community living** means living in the same places as people without disabilities.



A community can be a neighborhood, town, or city.



It can be any place where disabled and non-disabled people live together.



Community living means getting to make our own choices about our lives.



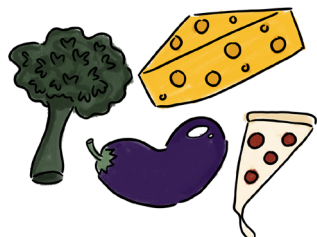
We can choose things like:



- Where we go to work or school



- How we spend our free time



- What we want to eat



- How we decorate our room



- Who we make friends with



- Who helps take care of us if we need help

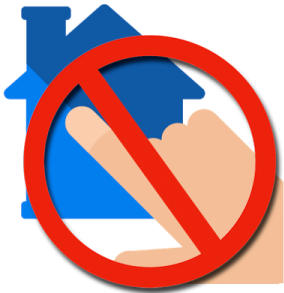
## What is an institution?



Some disabled people don't live in their communities. They live in **institutions** instead.



Institutions are places where a lot of disabled people live.



People in institutions usually did not decide to live there.



They were put there by someone else.





Institutions are not run by the people living there.



Institutions are run by the people who work there.



People living in institutions usually can't leave when they want to.



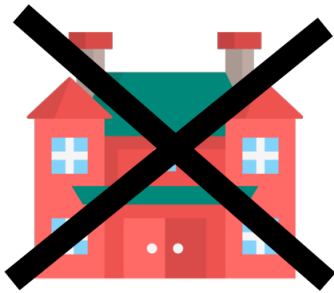
They usually can't spend their free time how they want to.



Other people get to make choices about how they live their lives.



**Institutions are bad for everyone.**



Nobody wants or needs to live in an institution!



When someone lives in an institution, it is much harder to use their rights.



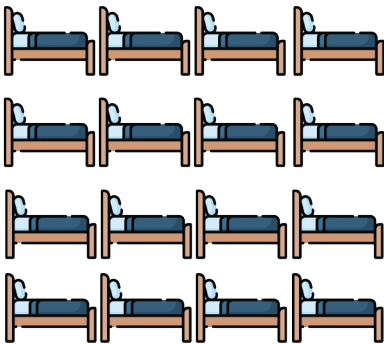
When someone lives in their community, it is much easier to use their rights.



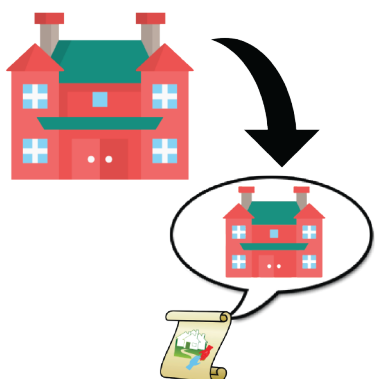
ASAN thinks many different places can be institutions.



But the HCBS Rule has a much smaller definition of institutions.



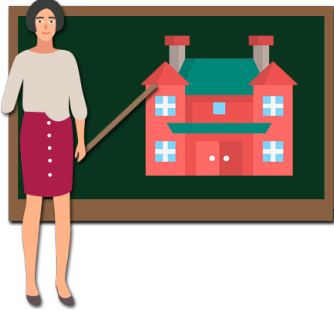
The HCBS Rule says that institutions are places that have space for 16 or more people with disabilities to live.



In this toolkit, when we say “institution,” we mean places that the HCBS Rule says are institutions.



There are a lot of wrong ideas about institutions and people with disabilities.



Here are the facts about institutions.



You can tell people the truth about institutions.

## #1: Institutions are never good for people with disabilities.



Some institutions look ugly on the outside and inside.



They are big buildings with too many people in them.



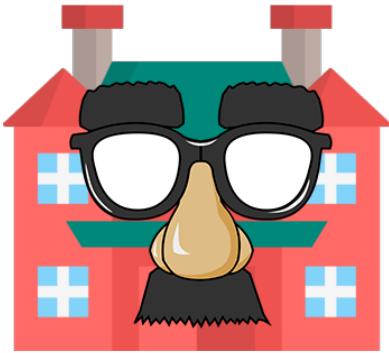
They do not give people who live there much to do.



People there might get sick a lot.



Other institutions look pretty on the outside and inside.



They look like college campuses, farms, apartments, or regular houses.



They give people who live there a lot of things to do.



People there get sick less.



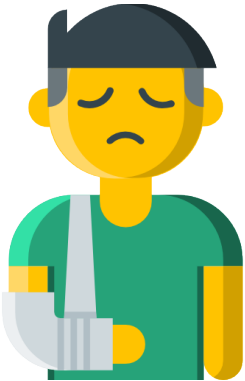
**Both kinds of institutions are bad.**



Both kinds of institutions keep people with disabilities away from our community.



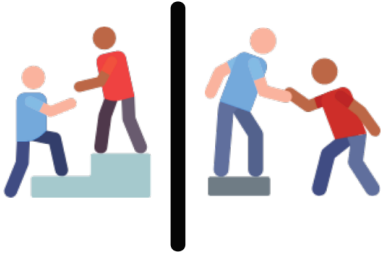
Both kinds of institutions take away choices from people with disabilities.



Both kinds of institutions hurt people with disabilities.



## #2: Nobody needs to live in institutions. Everyone can live in the community!



People with disabilities have different support needs.



Some people might need more support than others.



Some people say that people with high support needs have to live in institutions.



They say that only people with low support needs can live in the community.



People with high support needs can live in the community.



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



Their names were Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson.



They said that they had the right to live in the community.



The Supreme Court has the final say on how laws work.



The Supreme Court said that the women were right.



This was called the **Olmstead Decision**.



Lois and Elaine had intellectual disabilities. They had high support needs.



They did just fine living in the community!

### #3: Everyone can make choices!



Some people say that people who can't make choices need to live in institutions.



But everyone can make choices. So nobody needs to live in an institution.



Some people might have a harder time showing other people what they want.



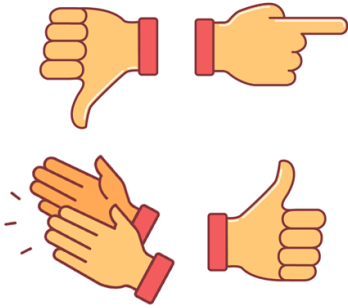
- They might not be able to speak.



- They might take longer to answer a question.



- They might need tools like an iPad or letterboard.



- They might not use words. They might show what their choices are with their actions.



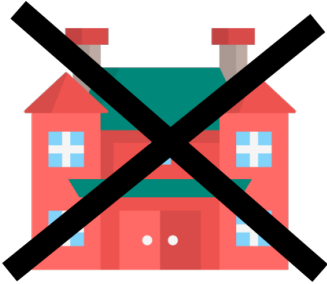
**This does not mean they can't make choices.**



It means we need to take more time to find out what their choices are.



All of these ideas about why we need institutions are not true. .

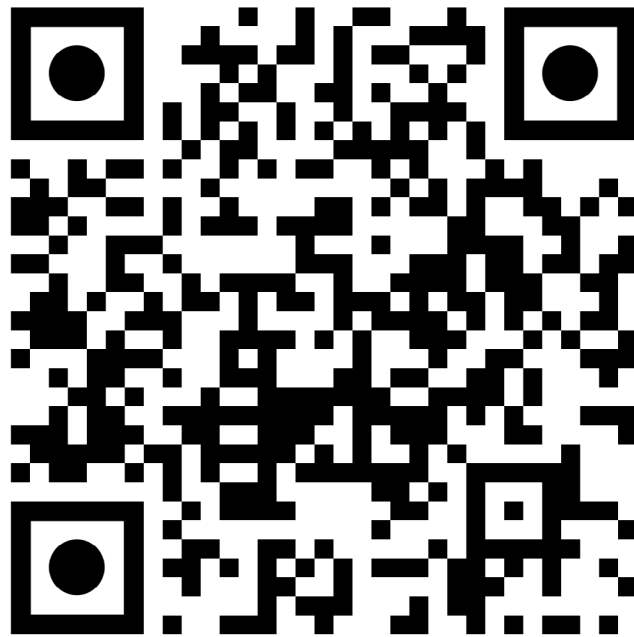


We should work so that nobody has to live in an institution.

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