



Easy Read Edition

The Cycle of Institutions

Part 4:

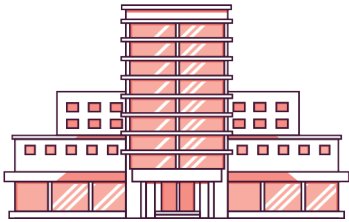
The Second Cycle: ICFs and Group Homes

Words to Know in Part 4



DD Act

A law that got made in 1975. It helps protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities.



Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

One kind of institution. ICFs got made to take care of people with disabilities. They were for people who need more help with everyday life.



Group homes

Houses where only disabled people live.
They are another kind of institution.

The Second Cycle: ICFs and Group Homes

What rules got made to help institutions get better?



1. =
2. =

The government made rules that institutions needed to follow.



The biggest one was a law called the Developmental Disabilities Act.



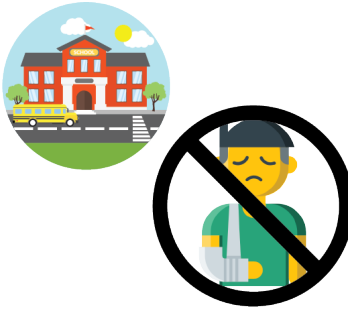
We call it the DD Act for short.



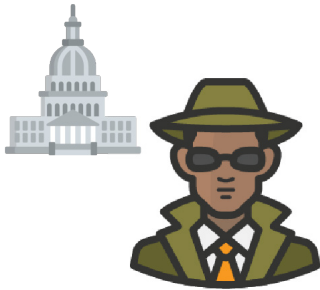
The DD Act got made in 1975.



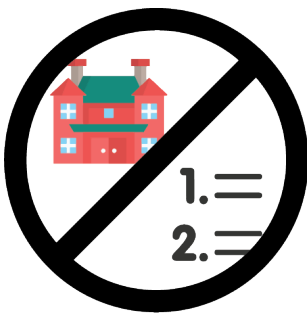
It said that institutions had to try and help people with disabilities.



They have to help us go to school. They aren't allowed to hurt us.



The government also said they would check institutions more.



Many old institutions couldn't follow these rules.



So they got closed down.



But it was still hard to find help in the community.



There weren't a lot of places to help people with disabilities.



So new places got made to replace institutions.

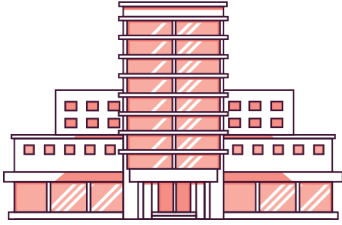


They were called ICFs and group homes.



They looked a little different. But they were still institutions.

What are ICFs?



Intermediate care facilities were one new kind of institution.



We call them **ICFs** for short.



ICFs got made to take care of people with disabilities.



They were for people who need more help with everyday life.



ICFs look a lot like hospitals.



They were supposed to take better care of us.



They were supposed to help us move back into the community.



But they ended up almost exactly like state schools.



Sometimes, a state school would close its building.



Then, they would open up an ICF in the same building.



That made it really easy to just go back to how things were before.

What are Group Homes?



Group homes are houses where only disabled people live.



State schools used to have houses just like this.



People with the same kind of disability lived together in one house.



Group homes do the exact same thing.



Sometimes, group homes are in the same houses that state schools used.



They are in the same places as the old institutions.



They are run by the same people as the old institutions.



The group homes say they follow the new rules.



But they don't always follow the rules.



They act just like old institutions.



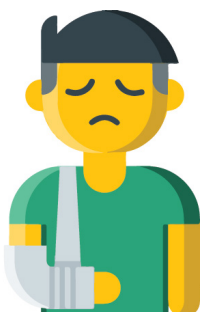
Sometimes, group homes are in houses in the community.



But people with disabilities might not be allowed to go out.



They might not get to go to school or work.



They might get hurt, and nobody would know.

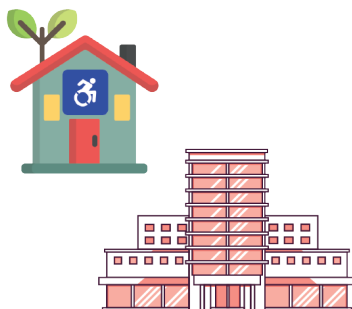


It doesn't matter that the house is in the community.



These group homes aren't any better than group homes in other places.

What are ICFs and Group Homes like Today?



ICFs and group homes are still around today.



There are a lot less ICFs than there used to be.



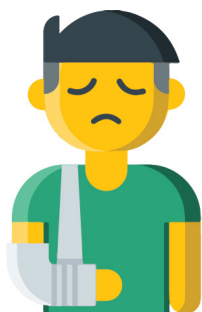
But a lot of ICFs became group homes.



And they both still keep people with disabilities separate from everyone else.



They still don't try to help us live better lives.



They still hurt people with disabilities.



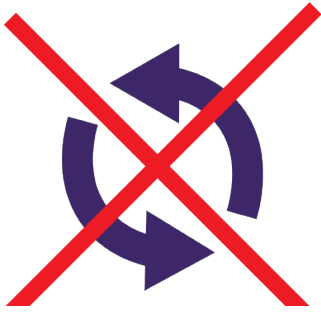
They are still just institutions.



People still sometimes notice how bad ICFs and group homes are.

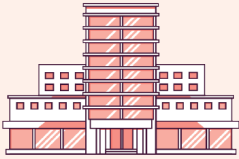


They tell other people about it.



But not much has changed to make these institutions better.

For example:



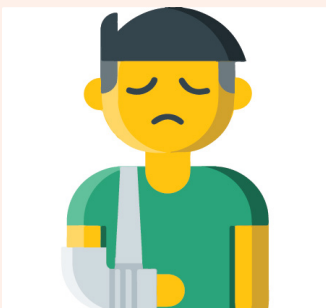
California has some ICFs called developmental centers.



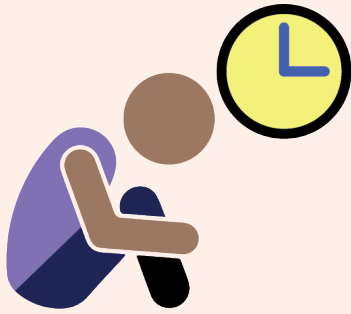
People got killed at the developmental centers.



They didn't get help when they got sick.



They got hurt by staff.



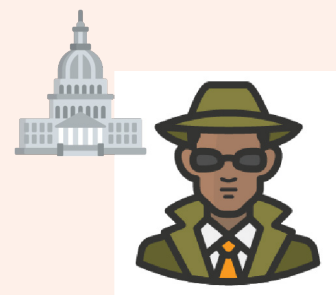
They got left alone for too long and died.



The California government didn't do anything about it for a long time.



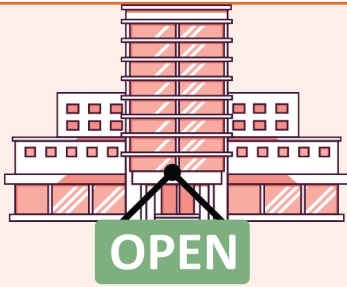
Then, the news talked about it in 2012.



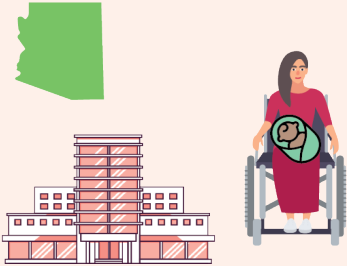
So the government checked the institutions.



They said they would close all the developmental centers.



But some of them are still open today.



In 2019, a disabled woman living in an ICF in Arizona had a baby.



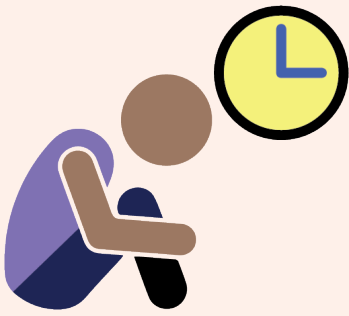
None of the institution staff noticed she was pregnant.



Some of the people living there were covered in bugs.



Nobody helped clean them.



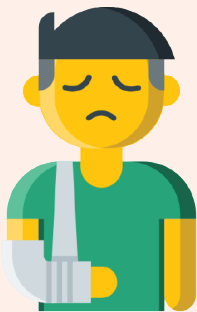
They got left alone for days at a time.



In 2016, a newspaper called the Chicago Tribune wrote about group homes.



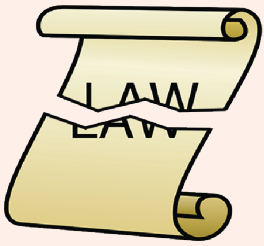
They looked at group homes in Illinois for 5 years



They found out that people living in group homes got hurt 1,311 times.



A lot of those times, the group homes didn't tell the government.



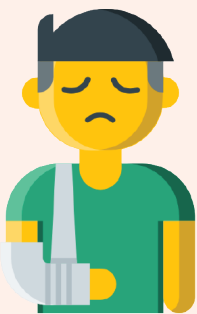
That is against the law, but it happened anyway.



The group homes never got in trouble.



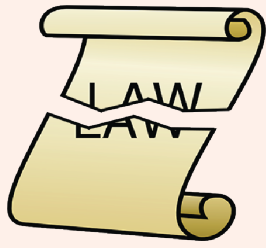
The U.S. government also looked at group homes in 2018.



They found out that group homes were hurting people.



And most group homes didn't tell anyone when people got hurt.



That is against the law. But it still happens today.

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