

## WEBINAR Q&A

### Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities

July 21, 2021

#### *What is Olmstead, Colbert and Ligas?*

Olmstead: [https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead\\_about.htm](https://www.ada.gov/olmstead/olmstead_about.htm)

The story of the Olmstead case begins with two women, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson, who had mental illness and developmental disabilities, and were voluntarily admitted to the psychiatric unit in the State-run Georgia Regional Hospital. Following the women's medical treatment there, mental health professionals stated that each was ready to move to a community-based program. However, the women remained confined in the institution, each for several years after the initial treatment was concluded. They filed suit under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for release from the hospital.

Colbert: <https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/mfp/Pages/Colbert.aspx>

Primary focus on mental illness that persons should reside in the most integrated and least restrictive environments and be provided with the services and supports to thrive in the community.

Ligas: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=66987>

The Ligas v. Hamos lawsuit was filed on July 28, 2005, on behalf of adults with developmental disabilities living in private, state-funded Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD) who want to move to community-based services or settings and on behalf of adults with developmental disabilities living at home who want community-based services or settings. In June 15, 2011, the Ligas v. Hamos Consent Decree was approved by the Court. Anyone on the PUNS list is considered a Ligas class member.

#### *How do you get on the 811 list to be moved up?*

Here's the link for the Illinois Housing Development Authority with additional information: [ihda.org/developers/rental-assistance/](http://ihda.org/developers/rental-assistance/)

***How can I get in touch with a provider in Chicago to discuss turning a property I own into a CILA with supports for the future?***

Depending on where you live in Chicago there are two service providers. You can find information at: [dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=&county=](https://dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=&county=).

You could start with a list of agencies and begin calling and asking for meetings as Lore Baker suggested in the webinar.

***I have been on statewide referral list for 2 years, received one list but no updates. Agency put me on list at my request and say they should get updates but never have.***

As with anything, continuous follow-up is key. Keep calling and be sure to get the name and contact information each time you talk to someone. Also, make certain that they have your most recent contact information.

***Who should I contact if I feel like I have been discriminated against or need legal assistance with my housing situation?***

Please contact Illinois Department of Human Rights:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dhr/FilingCharge/pages/housing.aspx>

***Will there be additional trainings in regard to home ownership and supports to individuals that own their own home that have home-based support or intermittent services?***

Thank you for your feedback! We have received several requests on this topic and will certainly keep it in mind for future topics as it's something that has resonated with so many individuals and families in Illinois. Be sure to watch your email for any future announcements from NDI and the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

***Please explain using your own home as a choice.***

When we say your own home is a choice it means that people with IDD have choices today and a home of their own is one of those choices. A person with disabilities can even own a home of their own without it impacting their benefits!

***With the waiting list for housing so long, is staying at a shelter the only place to get emergency housing?***

Please contact Legal Aid regarding housing aid for minors and people with disabilities. [illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/housing-programs-minors-and-people-disabilities](https://illinoislegalaid.org/legal-information/housing-programs-minors-and-people-disabilities)

***My son has been selected for PUNS, but the agency has not been able to hire anyone to work with him. Any suggestions? My son has not started receiving supportive services yet. Thanks!***

Keep calling and follow-up with them. The Arc of Illinois has advocates who can help as well and have a series of online presentations for those who have been selected and want to know their options. Call the Arc at [\(815\) 464-1832](tel:8154641832) or visit [thearcofil.org](https://thearcofil.org) and they should be able to help you.

***Am I able to apply on behalf of my teen for any of these services once they reach 18yrs old?***

That depends on your teen's situation and if you have guardianship or power of attorney. But yes, parents/families/guardians do work with young adults to seek these services and make decisions that are person-centered and person-driven.

***Are there any services available (free or paid) to provide help to a family trying to navigate all these different resources?***

The Arc of Illinois has funds from Illinois to help families navigate this system. Visit their website [thearcofil.org](https://thearcofil.org) for more information.

***Is there one place start to find out about possible services?***

The Arc of Illinois has hired two new outreach coordinators to assist individuals and families with navigating the different services in Illinois. Call the Arc at [\(815\) 464-1832](tel:8154641832) or visit [thearcofil.org](https://thearcofil.org).

***Where or how do I get on PUNS?***

Here's the website from IDHS and a good place to start:  
[dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131](https://dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131)

***Can 2 adult siblings, both with disabilities, get to live together if they get put on the PUNS list at different times?***

Two adult siblings can live where they want to, with or without waiver funding. This would depend on their individual situation and financial circumstances. It's best to work with your ISC case manager. Keep in mind, waiver funding for Home Based Services pays for supports.