

## 24-Hour Services

### **Issue**

Historically, people with disabilities have been isolated and segregated in settings that prevent them from building networks of support. Some people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are still isolated in a single place, with support from just one provider or person during a 24-hour period. This presents human and civil rights issues for many reasons, such as:

- greater risk for abuse and neglect
- increased anxiety and depression
- lack of choice in how, where, and with whom they spend their time
- little contact with people or providers who could offer oversight and support

Someone may be restricted to or isolated in a single place because they do not have control over their decision-making. They may also be restricted because of funding decisions that limit access to robust service and support options.

### **Position Statement**

People with IDD deserve to have real belonging in their communities, and relationships with many people of their choosing.

People with IDD should be able to direct their services and supports from different people and providers. When services and supports are individualized and self-directed, it can reduce isolation and prevent abuse and neglect.

Funding should not limit individuals' access to inclusive services. These services can help some people gain full access where they want to live, learn, work, worship, and play.

No one with IDD should be forced to be isolated in a single place. They must have access to different service providers, activities, jobs, and people that help them build the lives they want.

A person may choose 24-hour support by one provider or person, but this should be limited to when the person has informed choice of all other options.

People who are subject to public guardianship and live in a home that is controlled by the Department of Human Services must be able to access services during the day based on their own needs and wants.

Person-centered planning can help ensure informed choice, and should be used to select formal and informal support options.

When someone does get support from a single person or provider over 24-hours, there should be oversight from other people or entities to help prevent abuse and neglect.

Independent quality assurance programs are important in this oversight as well. These programs must make sure that services and supports help people with IDD live the life they want.