

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

**Prepared by the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee
March 2011**

What residential services does DDS offer?

DDS does not offer residential services to children, but does offer residential services to adults.

What steps should one take before seeking residential services?

Before seeking a residential placement, it is important to obtain needed assessments. Look at areas including:

- Activities of daily living
- Instrumental activities (important, but not as personal, like transportation, money management, food shopping, social activities)
- Social relationships
- Work like or daytime activities
- Health and related issues
- Financial assessment.¹

What resources are available to learn more about obtaining supported housing for a person with developmental disabilities?

The Arc of Mass., Building a Future: A Handbook for Families (3rd Ed. 2006), <http://thearcofmass.org/resources/children-families/>.

What can I do if I want to change residences and DDS refuses?

You may seek to change your DDS residence by pursuing a modification of your DDS ISP. See MHLAC's flyer entitled "Individual Support Planning for Clients of the Department of Developmental Services in Massachusetts."

What are my rights if DDS seeks to transfer me from one residence to another?

DDS has a regulation, 115 CMR 6.63, that provide protections to residents when DDS seeks to transfer a resident from one placement to another. Transfers also require an ISP modification.

¹ The Arc of Mass., Building a Future: A Handbook for Families (3rd Ed. 2006), <http://www.arcmass.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=q0pVSKSMgrE%3d&tabid=36&mid=2362>, at 15.