



What will a Ligas Family Advocate do for you?

Listen to your story, your plans and dreams, as well as your fears and doubts, about how you may work to achieve the life you want in the home you choose

Invoke your questions and provide you answers as you navigate the process of obtaining services through your Independent Service Coordination Agency, the agency you must work with to secure services

Give you information about all living options available statewide so you can make informed choices; including supportive housing (i.e. affordable housing with services unique to each person's needs);

Answer questions you may have about housing, federal and state benefit programs, natural and community supports and link you to assistance in your community

Share creative ways to utilize funding for Home Based and CILA services, and connect families to families at "Know your Options" events

Background: In 2011, the State entered into an Olmstead¹ Consent Decree settling the *Ligas v. Norwood* lawsuit, filed in 2005 by individuals with development disabilities who lived in private, State-funded facilities (Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities or ICFs/DD) of nine or more people, or who were at risk of being placed in such ICFs/DD. Stanley Ligas and others who sued the State wanted to live in community-based settings and to receive community-based services. The Consent decree identifies two groups of Class members:

- ✓ *Adults, age 18 or older, in Illinois with DD who qualify for Medicaid waiver services, who reside in ICFs/DD with nine or more residents, and who affirmatively request to receive community-based services or placement in a community-based setting; and*
- ✓ *Adults in Illinois with DD who qualify for Medicaid waiver services, who live in a family home, who are in need of community-based services or placement in a community-based setting, and who affirmatively request community-based services or placement in a community-based setting.*



* The Ligas Family Advocate Program is funded through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services *

¹ Ligas is one of two IL Department of Human Services Olmstead consent decrees. *Olmstead v. L.C.* was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1999. The Court ruled that the "integration mandate" of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires public agencies to provide services "in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

Achieve with us.



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