

1001-B RESPONSIBILITIES OF INDIVIDUALS APPLYING FOR AND/OR RECEIVING SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

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Applying for and/or receiving supports and services individuals with developmental disabilities are to be supported in exercising the same rights and choices and afforded the same opportunities enjoyed by other citizens. The Division provides this support by following the principles of self-determination. Self-determination is the ability of a member to make choices that allow him/her to exert control over his/her life and destiny, to reach the goals he/she has set, and take part fully in the world around him/her. To be self-determined requires that a member has the freedom to be in charge of his/her life, choosing where to live, who to spend his/her time with and how to spend his/her time. Decisions made by the member about his/her quality of life shall be without undue influence or interference of others. Self-determination also necessitates that the member has the resources needed to make responsible decisions.

Self-determination is necessary because people who have disabilities often desire greater control of their lives so they can experience the life they envision for themselves, one that is consistent with their own values, preferences, strengths and needs. For individuals receiving services through the Division, one way to exert greater control of their lives is to choose the supports and services they receive and who provides that support. The Division offers many options for a member wanting to make more choices about services and supports, such as:

- A. Selecting a Support Coordinator;
- B. Selecting and directing their planning process, either an Individual Support Plan and/or a Person-Centered Plan;
- C. Selecting service providers, both qualified vendors and individual independent providers;
- D. Hiring, managing, and firing service providers;
- E. Using a fiscal intermediary to manage the financial aspects of having a service provider who is his/her employee; and,
- F. Having the spouse serve as his/her provider.