

State of Vermont—Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living/Developmental Disabilities Services Division

Settings Rule Bill of Rights

[The Settings Rule](#) is a set of rules that the State and providers must follow related to Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services settings and the Person-Centered Planning process.



Settings that are included are:

- Staffed Living (1 or 2 people in a home with full time support),
- Group Living (3, 4, 5, or 6 people in a home with full time support),
- Shared Living (1 or 2 people living with a shared living provider),
- Supervised Living (1 or 2 people in their own home with part time support).

Home settings that are not included are when people live:

- independently without paid home supports,
- with an unpaid family member*.

The Settings Rule says that you have the right to:

- live in the community with people without disabilities.
- have options about where you live.
- make the choice where you live from options.
- live somewhere that is physically accessible.
- have privacy and respect.
- not be restrained or secluded,
- decorate your room or house how you want,
- have choice about your services and who provides them,
- have a lease or other legal agreement that gives you rights like a lease,
- have locks on your doors for privacy,
- have your choice of roommates,
- control your own schedule,
- have the food you choose,
- be able to eat when you want,
- have the visitors you want when you want.

* Settings where a person lives with a family member (like a brother or sister) who is paid as a shared living provider are included in this rule.

When It Makes Sense Not to Follow the Settings Rule:

The Settings Rule also says that if there is reason to not follow the Rule, it has to be for your **health and safety**. Before this can happen, you need to have a meeting with your team. You and your team need to:

- Talk about why not following the Settings Rule will help you.
- Write down why not following the Settings Rule makes sense.
- Talk about all the other things that you and your team have tried before not following the Settings Rule.

Because everyone has a person-centered plan, your plan is about what is best for you. Your provider must follow the Settings Rule for everyone who receives services. Just because you and your team don't follow part of the Setting Rule in your plan, it doesn't mean the provider isn't going to follow that part of the Settings Rule for everyone that they support. These are important rights that cannot just be taken away from you.

It might be helpful to talk with the people closest to you about how you want to use these rights. Also, you should know how using these rights might affect the people that you live with. For example: It is your right to control your schedule. But if you don't tell the people that you live with that you won't be home for dinner, they might wait for you and worry when you don't show up.