

Independent Living with Personal Assistance

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Short definition of Independent Living

Independent Living means to have the same range of options and the same degree of self-determination that non-disabled people take for granted.

Short definition of Personal Assistance

Personal Assistance means to be able to customize services to your unique individual needs by

either employing your assistants and deciding who works with what, when, where and how

or by

buying services choosing freely among many competing service providers.

Quantity and quality of your Personal Assistance services (and thus quality of life) are determined by

your country's policy

the market

yourself

Policy level ***(legislation, regulations, legal practice)***

Who has the financial responsibility?

Who is eligible

Means testing?

How are needs assessed?

Subsidies to service users or to service providers?

Accountability for money

Are providers' administrative costs covered?

Are accompanying assistants' costs covered?

How can our movement influence policy?

Market level

Who may work as personal assistant?

The role of trade unions

Restrictions as to type of service provider?

Competition for users' freedom of choice

Ease of switching providers

How can our movement influence the market?

Individual level

How can you influence the quality of your services?

Know what you want in life

Know your assistance needs

Know your personal strengths and weaknesses

Learn how to express your needs and to delegate

Learn how to choose your assistants

Learn how to motivate your assistants

Learn how to defend your interests

How can our movement assist the individual in this process?

Read about policy in "Model National Personal Assistance Policy", paper produced for project European Center for Excellence in Personal Assistance

www.independentliving.org/docs6/ratzka200410a.html