

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Arc of Missouri

The Arc of Missouri supports and encourages independent living opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. “Neighborhoods and communities are enriched when everyone participates to the fullest extent possible, including people with developmental disabilities” (Hope House).

The Arc of Missouri supports individualized living in an integrated community. Housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities should look, and function, like all other homes in the community. Residents should be making their own decisions on services which are appropriate to accommodate the wants and desires of the resident.

A home is where all residents can feel safe and comfortable, make their own choices, determine their own menus, be involved in home operating decisions, and, most of all, be accepted unconditionally. A home is a place to relax and enjoy one’s self without criticism or unwanted interference with individual choices.

Community living includes involvement in neighborhood activities, including interaction with neighbors and other community residents. The old saying that a “home is one’s castle” applies to individuals with developmental disabilities as much as to any other resident of a community.

In-home supports of individuals with developmental disabilities should be just that—support. Those providing supports should be making every effort to accommodate the needs and desires of the resident, and not making decisions for them.

The Arc of Missouri fully supports the initiatives of the Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (MOHousing) in helping individuals with developmental disabilities to “live where you desire in a home that accommodates your needs”.

Their website, www.mohousing.com, provides information about safe, accessible, quality, affordable housing in Missouri for people with developmental disabilities. This site is a tremendous resource for individuals and their families in seeking a home.