Finding Home: An Introduction
to Government & Other Kinds of Housing Assistance

A presentation by the National Youth Leadership Network
What is NYLN?

- A youth-led, youth-run national organization that serves as a voice for and network of young leaders with disabilities.

- Our members are youth and young adults with disabilities (age 16-28) and allies (siblings, friends, parents, teachers, etc.).

- You can register to be an NYLN member at www.nyln.org. As a member you will get great info and be connected to other young leaders and allies around the country.
Housing Assistance Programs

- These programs all have local offices where you can go to apply for housing:
  - Your local government’s Housing Assistance Office
  - HUD – The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Section 8 Housing
  - LIHEAP – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

IMAGE: A home has a SOLD sign in the yard.
Centers for Independent Living

CILs do not provide housing or financial assistance, but they can help you understand housing programs and help you find a house. They can also connect you with PASS Plans that may help you be able to pay for your new home.

IMAGE: A smaller home for a first-time buyer.
Finding A Home

- What kind of community do you want to live in – a city, a suburb, a small town?
- Do you need to be close to public transportation (buses, trains, etc.)?
- What is the size of the place you are looking for (studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms)?
- Do you want to live by yourself or with other people?
- How much can you pay?
- What accessibility needs do you have?
Landlord Responsibilities

Landlords must:

• Let you live in the apartment without being disturbed or bothered.
• Make repairs in a reasonable amount of time and maintain things [keep something working], as necessary.
• Be sure the building complies with regulations [rules].
• Make sure all equipment is safe to use.
• Provide and maintain fire alarms, fire extinguishers, fire escapes, and smoke or heat alarms.
Landlord Rights

Landlords can:
• Charge a security deposit or collect overdue rent.
• Take over the apartment if you do not pay rent or if you break the rules written in the lease.
• Enter the apartment after telling you to inspect the apartment, make repairs, or show the apartment to a possible new renter.
• Enter the apartment because of a court order or if the apartment appears to be abandoned.
• Inspect the apartment in the last month of your lease to determine if there is any damage.
Tenant Responsibilities

Tenants must:

- Pay rent on time.
- Be respectful to neighbors.
- Report any damage or needs for repairs.
- Make sure you do not damage the apartment.
- Ask your landlord for permission to make changes to the apartment. For example, if you want to paint a room, you need to ask first.
Tenant Rights

Tenants can:

- Know the full agreement between you and the landlord.
- Know the name and address of the landlord.
- Live in an apartment that is in good condition to rent.
- Receive reasonably quick repairs to damaged items.
- Have all the appliances, gas and electrical systems meet the required safety standards.
- Have your security deposit returned to you.
Tenant Responsibilities Cont.

Tenants must:

- Allow the landlord to enter the apartment if the landlord told you ahead of time.
- Get permission in writing from your landlord if you want to let someone else rent your apartment (sublet).
- Give the agreed amount of notice to your landlord if you wish to leave the apartment early.
- Not leave the apartment unoccupied for longer than 14 days without telling the landlord.
Disability and Housing

- Landlords cannot discriminate because of disability.
- The price and process for getting an apartment must be the same for people with disabilities as it is for people without.
- If it is financially difficult to give an accommodation (beyond what is noted in the law), the landlord does not have to do it.

IMAGE: A man going up a ramp to enter his home.
Finding A Home

Before agreeing to rent an a place:

• Be sure the apartment is in good condition.

• Write down and give your landlord any repairs that need to be made.

• Talk with neighbors about the character of the landlord or management company.

• Get a feel for the community.
For more information, or to become a member, contact us:

National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN)

www.nylon.org

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