

Factsheet: The Use of Arrangements that Support Self-Determination in Shared Living Arrangements

This factsheet was prepared to provide information about how two or more people who receive services and supports from the public mental health system can share living space and even share staff while maintaining the essential elements of arrangements that support self-determination (control of an individual budget and the ability to choose and fire their own providers and workers).

- Individuals who use arrangements that support self-determination usually live in their homes with one or more roommates or with family members.
- When an individual chooses to rent his or her own apartment or house, he or she has all of the rights and protections of a tenant under state law. See the Michigan Truth in Renting Act MCL 554.631.¹
- Usually when roommates are using arrangements that support self-determination, they each arrange their own services and supports and hire their own providers.
- Roommates may decide to share staff when doing so is prudent and works for both of them.
- The separate individual budgets of roommates are never combined and each person maintains the right to hire and fire their own providers.
- When a person is using arrangements that support self-determination, all of the requirements for documentation of service provision and monitoring of services and supports by the Supports Coordinator or Case Manager still apply.
- The provision of housing and supports should be separated so that an individual maintains the right to fire staff without having to move.
- While a landlord can provide both housing and support to a family member, when an unrelated person is added into the mix, adult foster care licensing rules may apply to the situation.
- Specifically, when room, board and 24 hour “personal care, protection and supervision” are provided, the landlord needs to apply for and obtain a license to operate a group home and follow the licensing rules².

¹ The Michigan Legislature publishes an excellent guide, **Tenants and Landlords a practical guide**, which can be found at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/tenantlandlord.pdf>

² Licensing rules can be found at http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,1607,7-124-5455_27716_27717---,00.html