

# Making Decisions - Your Place To Live



NUI Galway  
OÉ Gaillimh

**cki** community  
knowledge  
initiative



NUI Galway

CENTRE for DISABILITY  
LAW & POLICY

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES**

*Providing Services to People with Intellectual Disability*





Choosing where you live is a very important decision.

The law says that adults have capacity. This means being able to make your own decision about something.

The law says having capacity means that:

- you are able to understand the information about the decision so that you can decide
  - If you do not understand the information you are being given, you should ask for a clearer explanation
  - You should continue to ask until you understand.
  - You should ask as many questions as you need to
- you remember the information
- you are able to understand the different choices you have so that you can make a decision
- you are able to understand what will happen when you make your decision
- you can tell or show someone what you want.

You can tell or show someone by:

- Using words
- Using pictures
- Using signs like Lámh or Irish Sign Language
- Using your communication device
- Using gestures
- Using any of these together

You should be given the chance to make choices and decisions for yourself.

The people around you, people you trust or family, should support and help you to make whatever decisions you want.

These can be decisions about where you live and who you would like to live with.

Sometimes it might not be possible to live on your own just now

- it may cost too much to live on your own just now
- you may not get the services you need just now
- you may need home support
- you may need to live in a house that has a ramp going up to the door, that does not have stairs or has wider door frames.

It is important to think about some questions when making a decision about where you live.



**IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT:**

**Would you like to live with friends?**



**Would you like to live on your own?**



**Would you like to live at home?**



**Your Place To Live**



## INFORMATION



There are a lot of things to think about when making your decisions about where to live. You may need information about where to live before you can make a decision about it.

You may need information on the cost of services

You may need information on home support

You may need to find out if the house, has a ramp, stairs, or wide door frames.

You should be given information in a way that you can understand it.

You may need more information for more difficult decisions that you have to make about where you live.

Information can be explained to you by

- Using words
- Using pictures
- Using signs like Lámh or Irish Sign Language
- Using your communication device
- Using any of these together



## IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PLACE TO LIVE:



## GETTING SUPPORT TO MAKE DECISIONS:

### What you would like

You should have enough support to make your own decisions about where you live. Choosing where you live is very important.

It is Your Choice:

- You have the right to decide where you would like to live.
- You have the right to decide how you would like to live.
- You have the right to decide who you would like to live with.



---

But it is not always possible to get what you would like.

You might not be able choose everything about the place where you wish to live.

But you should be involved in all the decisions about where you live.

Sometimes it may be difficult for you to make decisions about where you live.

Then, someone you trust can help you to make that decision.

They can support you to:

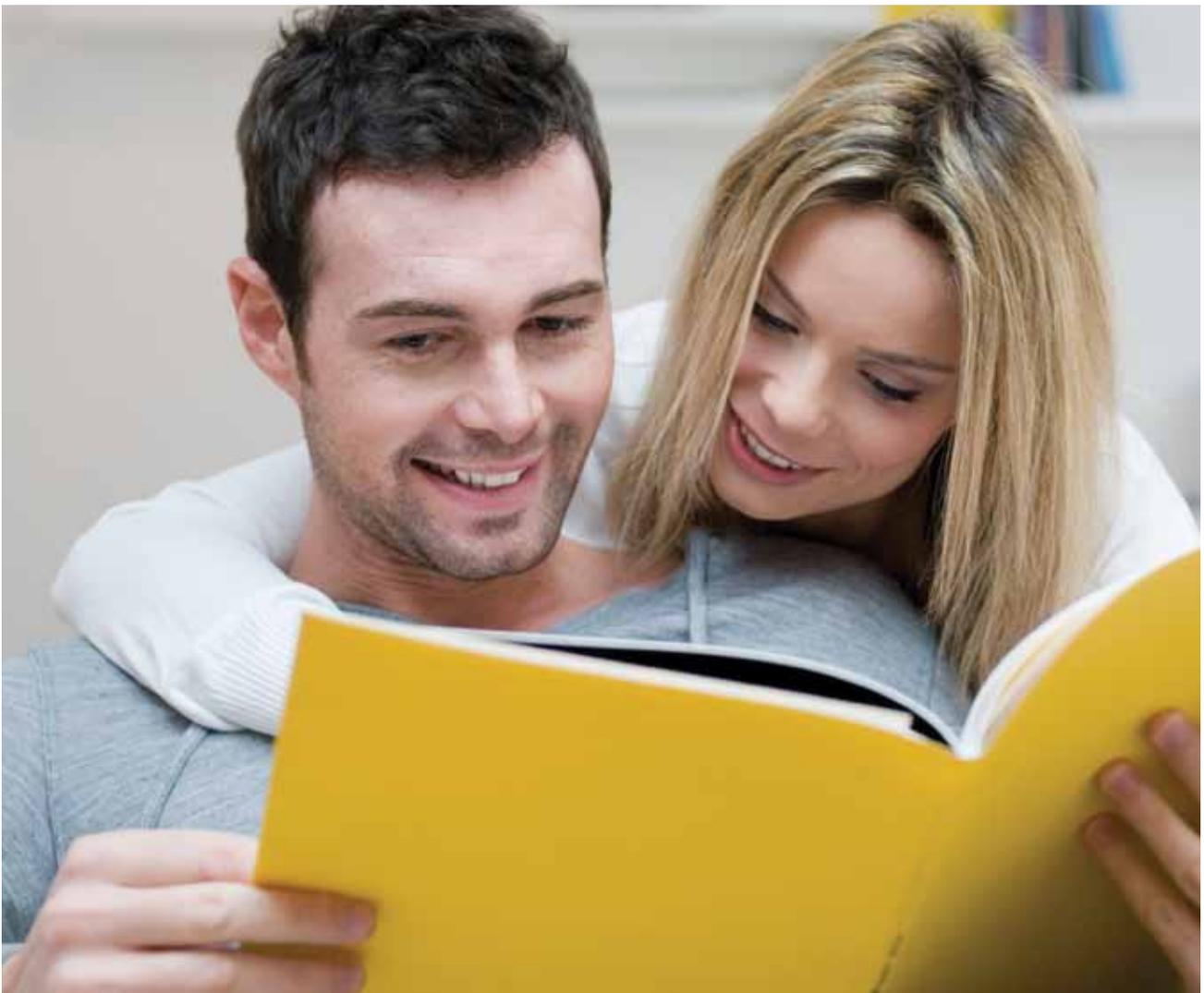
- Understand the information about your decision
- Remember the information that you need to make your decision
- Understand the different choices you have
- Know what happens after you have made your decision
- Let people know what your decision is



When someone you trust supports you to make a decision, they have to remember that it is your views that are very important.

Someone you trust can include a friend, an advocate, a family member and any other person who supports and knows you well.

Sometimes a court may decide that you are unable to make a decision about where you live. In this case, someone may be asked to make a decision for you. This decision must be based on your wishes, what is happening now and what might happen so that things are better for you.



## MAKING DECISIONS : It's your place to live

### Stepping Stones to making a decision about where you live:

Making small decisions everyday for ourselves helps us to learn how to make big decisions.





# THIS IS JOHN ...



John used to live with 6 other people in a group home.

John didn't like it there.

John wanted to live on his own, in his own place.

John talked to his support worker, Sean about this problem.

He talked to his friend Joan.

He talked to his brothers and sisters.

After talking to everyone, John decided that he would try to get his own place.

John and his support worker looked at a lot of houses.

It cost too much money for John to live on his own, in his own place.

But John was able to move out of the group home.

He now lives with one other person.

John is happy in his new home.

He likes it more than living in the group home.

John still wants to live in his own place, by himself.

Hopefully, someday John will be able to get his own place to live.

*John decided he wanted to live on his own. He spoke to his friend Joan and his brothers and sisters and his support worker. He decided it might not be possible to live on his own at this time. He has moved in with one other person. John pays his rent to the owner of the apartment every month.*