


# Housing for the Developmentally Delayed

### Greco Roman Period: 500 BC–300 AD

The Greeks and Romans emphasized physical and mental perfection. Any physical or mental imperfections and infirmities were seen as comparable to barbarians. Due to their lack of mental and physical perfection, people with developmental delays were discarded and destroyed. Aristotle recommended that deformed children should not live.


### Early Christianity: 30 AD–1500 AD

Early Christians saw people with developmental delays as children of God. Jesus demonstrated compassion towards these people, so early Christians used compassion as well. Early asylums were created to house people with delays. However, they also served as a form of entertainment and "idiot cages" served as entertainment to towns people.



### Industrial Revolution: 1800 AD–1870 BC

The industrial revolution caused wealth for some and poverty for many. During this time, those with developmental delays were housed in either asylums or poorhouses. Poorhouses were government-run facilities meant to provide housing for the dependent. The intention of these poorhouses was charitable reform by "teaching, supporting".



### Institution Movement: 1870 AD–1950 AD

Many people had learned that the family wasn't able to take the greatest advantage of what their child could be "taught". In 1870, such schools were established throughout the country. However, these learning schools were not able to care for all children.

People could be placed in a school and given some special treatment, but for a long time, they were not understood for what they always were. It was not until the 1950s that a whole new "Movement" was created to help people.



### Self-Advocacy Movement: 1972

It was not until 1972 that a focus on the rights of the self-advocacy movement for people with developmental delays. It had a focus on self-advocacy and the empowerment of people with delays. The movement emphasized the importance of self-advocacy and the philosophy of empowerment being that people with delays are not dependent on other people, they need to be able to take care of themselves.



### Relevant Legislation

1975 The developmentally disabled are entitled to the same educational opportunities as their non-disabled peers. This was the first time that people with developmental delays were given the same educational opportunities as their non-disabled peers.

1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed. This act prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, state and local government services, education, and access to public places.

1991 The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was amended to include people with developmental delays. This act prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, state and local government services, education, and access to public places.

1997 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was amended to include people with developmental delays. This act guaranteed that all children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education.



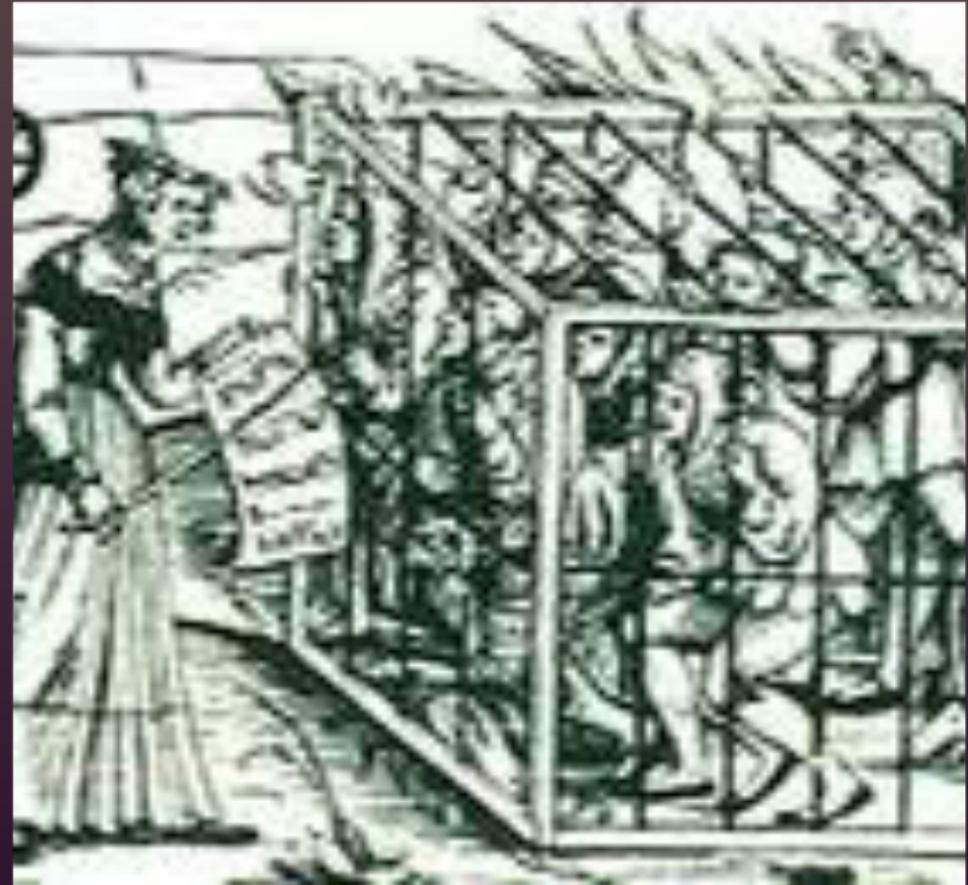


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## *Early Christianity: 30 AD-1500 AD*

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# *Industrial Revolution: 1800 AD-1870 BC*



The industrial revolution created wealth for some and poverty for many. During this time, those with developmental delays were housed in either asylums or poorhouses. Poorhouses were government-run facilities meant to provide housing for the dependent. The mission of these poorhouses was character reform by "repressing pauperism".

# *Institution Movement: 1870 AD-1950 AD*

Many people had demanded that the developmentally disabled should be placed in a training school, where their disability could be “cured”. In 1850, such schools were established throughout the country. However, these training schools were not able to cure mental retardation.

We (as a country) should “give them an asylum, with good and kind treatment; but not a school ... a well-fed, well-cared for idiot is a happy creature. An idiot awakened to his condition is a miserable one” -Massachusetts Governor Benjamin Butler



## *Self Advocacy Movement: 1972*

A man named Ed Roberts is known as the father of the self-advocacy movement for people with developmental delays. Roberts' efforts as an activist led to the first independent living service and advocacy program run by and for people with delays. This movement replaced institutions and training schools. The philosophy of independent living is that people with delays are the best experts on their needs, so they must be an active role in promoting better solutions.



*Roberts contracted polio in 1953 and had been paralyzed from the neck down, save a few fingers on one hand.*

## *Relevant Legislation*

- **1970:** The Developmental Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Amendment gave states the responsibility for planning & implementing services for people with disabilities.
- **1973:** Rehabilitation Act was rewritten to provide rehabilitation services to people with severe disabilities.
- **1986:** Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act authorized SSI and Medicaid benefits for people with disabilities who maintain employment.
- **1990:** Americans with Disabilities Act affirms the rights of people with disabilities, prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, accommodations, services, & telecommunications.





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**Institution Movement: 1870 AD–1950 AD**

Many people had learned that the family wasn't always the greatest solution if they were that disabled could be "fixed". In 1870, such efforts were established throughout the country. However, these housing efforts were not able to care for the population.

People could be placed in an institution and given basic medical treatment, but for a long time, they were not treated for what they were. They were not treated as individuals. They were not treated as people. They were not treated as human beings.



**Self-Advocacy Movement: 1972**

It was not until 1972 that the rights of people with developmental delays were recognized. The Self-Advocacy Movement was created to help people with developmental delays to have a voice in their own lives. The movement is still active today and continues to work for the rights of people with developmental delays.



**Relevant Legislation**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The ADA is the most comprehensive law regarding the rights of people with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was the first federal law that prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in programs or activities conducted by private organizations that receive federal financial assistance, and in employment.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was passed in 1975. It guarantees that all children with disabilities have the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that is tailored to their individual needs and strengths.

