

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND TRADITIONAL PARADIGMS*

This chart compares traditional approaches to medical and vocational rehabilitation services with the consumer-driven, Independent living approach.

	MEDICAL MODEL & REHABILITATION PARADIGM	INDEPENDENT LIVING or DISABILITY PARADIGM
Definition of Problem	Physical or mental impairment; lack of vocational skill (in the VR system); lack of abilities.	Dependence upon professionals, family members & others; it is the attitudes & environments that are hostile & need fixing.
Locus of Problem	In the individual (individuals are sick and need to be "fixed").	In the environment; in the medical and/or rehabilitation process itself; disability is a common part of the human condition.
Solution to the Problem	Professional intervention; treatment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil rights & advocacy 2. Barrier removal 3. Self-help 4. Peer role models & peer support 5. Consumer control over options & services
Social Role	Individual with a disability is a "patient" or "client."	Individual with a disability is a "consumer," "customer" or "user" of services and products.
Who Controls	Professional	"Consumer" or "Individual"
Desired Outcomes	Maximum self-care (or "ADL"— Activities of Daily Living); gainful employment (in VR system)	Independence through control over ACCEPTABLE options for every day living in an integrated community.