

LOUISIANA ACT 378 OF 1989
CHAPTER 13. COMMUNITY & FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM
ARTICLE 821 FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

A. The Legislature of Louisiana finds that services for persons with developmental disabilities should be responsive to the needs of the individual and his family, rather than fitting the person into existing programs. The Legislature further finds that it is more cost effective to provide services to adults and children with developmental disabilities living in their own homes or with their families rather than in out-of-home placements.

B. The Legislature declares that the purpose of this Chapter 13 is to establish that:

1) Children, regardless of the severity of their disability, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment. As with all children, children with developmental disabilities need families and family relationships to develop to their fullest potential. Parents of children with developmental disabilities shall be afforded freedom of choice as to placement of their child, in accordance with R.S. 28:380 et seq.

2) Adults with developmental disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and to live in typical homes and communities where they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens.

C. It is the intention of the Legislature that the State of Louisiana adhere to the principles contained in this Chapter in program planning, development, funding, and implementation for persons with developmental disabilities and their families. It is the further intention of the Legislature that the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Department of Social Services work cooperatively to implement the Community and Family Support System Plan developed by the Louisiana State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities pursuant to this Chapter.

CHAPTER 13. COMMUNITY & FAMILY SUPPORT SYSTEM
ARTICLE 823 PRINCIPLES

The following ideals shall be the guiding principles for the development of a Community and Family Support System Plan:

1) The family of each child with developmental disabilities shall be provided the support necessary so that the child may live in a stable family environment in an enduring relationship with one or more adults regardless of the severity of the disability of the child or the degree of support necessary.

- 2) Adults with developmental disabilities should receive the supports necessary to enable them to achieve their maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and integration into the community.
- 3) The family support system shall be flexible, individualized, and family centered.
- 4) The needs of the entire family shall be considered in the development of the individualized family supports.
- 5) The family support system recognizes that families are best able to determine their own needs, rather than having their needs determined by the State or an agency.
- 6) Adults with developmental disabilities should have supports and services provided in the community to meet their needs wherever the individual chooses to live and work.
- 7) The system shall have a program of outreach so that families may obtain family support at the time they learn of their child's disability, and so that people are aware of the availability of community supports when the need arises.
- 8) The system shall support and strengthen existing informal social networks and natural supports in addition to professional support services.
- 9) The system shall promote the use of existing community resources.
- 10) Out-of-home placement of children shall be used only after parents are given the option of choosing family support services.
- 11) The system shall be flexible to insure that unanticipated needs are met and that the provision of supports and services is not limited to the location and types of existing services.
- 12) A cash subsidy should be made available to eligible families for any of the purposes contained within the plan in order to enhance the family support system.