

Federal Definition of Developmental Disability

Public Law 106-402 of 2000, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, defines "developmental disability":

The term developmental disability means a severe, chronic disability of a person that:

1. is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. is manifested before the person attains age 22;
3. is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; receptive and expressive language; learning; mobility; self-direction; capacity for independent living; and economic self-sufficiency; and
5. reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

Michigan's Definition of Developmental Disabilities

Public Act 258 of 1974, the Michigan Mental Health Code, amended in 1987, and amended most recently in 1995, defines "developmental disability" as criteria for service eligibility from the state mental health system:

Developmental disability means either of the following:

(a) If applied to an individual older than 5 years, a severe, chronic condition that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of mental and physical impairments.

(ii) Is manifested before the individual is 22 years old.

(iii) Is likely to continue indefinitely.

(iv) Results in substantial functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas of major life activity:

(A) Self-care.

(B) Receptive and expressive language.

(C) Learning.

(D) Mobility.

(E) Self-direction.

(F) Capacity for independent living.

(G) Economic self-sufficiency.

(v) Reflects the individual's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services that are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

(b) If applied to a minor from birth to age 5, a substantial developmental delay or a specific congenital or acquired condition with a high probability of resulting in developmental disability as defined in subdivision (a) if services are not provided.