



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Jensen Settlement Agreement

The Jensen Settlement Agreement is the result of a lawsuit in 2009 alleging that residents of the former DHS Minnesota Extended Treatment Options (METO) program were unlawfully and unconstitutionally secluded and restrained. The Jensen Settlement Agreement allowed the department and the plaintiffs to resolve the claims in a mutually agreeable way.

How does the Jensen Settlement affect people or individuals receiving services from DHS?

As part of the Jensen Settlement, DHS is:

- Not using mechanical restraints (i.e., law enforcement handcuffs, leg irons, other means, mechanical means to restrain) on people with developmental disabilities
- Changing the way the agency provides treatment for people under its care and set a new course toward the implementation of best practices for persons with disabilities
- Working to serve people in the most integrated setting, in an environment that is consistent with the person's goals, dreams and aspirations
- Training its staff in person-centered thinking and planning as well as positive support assessment and intervention.

How does the Jensen Settlement affect the work of DHS staff?

The Jensen Settlement Agreement is not only about what happens in DHS' Direct Care and Treatment facilities. As part of the Jensen Settlement Agreement:

- DHS is complying with all court orders.
- The state of Minnesota is making statewide changes and developed a plan for all people with disabilities, called Minnesota's Olmstead Plan.
- DHS is establishing placement alternatives to support people in the most integrated setting to meet the person's individualized needs.
- DHS is making bimonthly reports to the court on the Jensen Settlement Agreement implementation and quarterly reports for the first two years of the settlement agreement on the Olmstead Plan implementation.

How does the Jensen Settlement Agreement affect the work of counties and providers?

- Under the Comprehensive Plan of Action DHS is using its best efforts to require counties and providers to comply with the new best practices for supporting people with disabilities.
- This may include changing contracts, as well as looking at rules and regulations and rate setting in different ways.

Where can I find additional resources?

Additional resources can be found on the DHS Jensen Settlement Agreement Web page. Visit the “General Public” section on the DHS website at mn.gov/dhs.

This information is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting us at 651-431-4385 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact our agency’s ADA coordinator.