



## Frequently Asked Questions about Independent Living Housing

The Independent Living Association supports Independent Living owners, residents and the community through promoting high quality Independent Living Housing. The ILA hopes to educate the community about Independent Living Housing and provide accurate and unbiased information about Independent Living Housing in San Diego County.

This brief list of questions addresses some of the frequently asked questions about Independent Living housing and the ILA. Please feel free to contact the ILA at [info@ilasd.org](mailto:info@ilasd.org) with any further questions.

### 1. **What is an Independent Living?**

An Independent Living is a privately owned home or complex that provides housing for adults with mental illness or those that may benefit from a shared housing environment.

### 2. **Who lives in Independent Livings?**

Independent Livings serve residents that benefit from shared housing, that do not need medication oversight and are able to live independently. Many Independent Livings offer housing for people recovering from mental illness, or those that may benefit from the structure and fellowship of a shared housing environment.

Independent Livings are not able to accept or retain residents who demonstrate the need for care and supervision, including residents that need assistance with:

- activities of daily living including dressing, grooming, mobility (e.g. wheelchair bound needed assistance with mobility or transfers in/out of bed), bathing and hygiene
- managing medication or assistance with prescriptions or pharmacies
- storing medications
- arranging medical and dental care
- monitoring food intake or special diets
- handling resident's monies

For more information, please reference the State of California's Community Care Licensing's When A License is Needed Guidelines: [http://ilasd.org/ilawp/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/1.L\\_CCL.When\\_License.Needed.pdf](http://ilasd.org/ilawp/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/1.L_CCL.When_License.Needed.pdf).

### **3. How are Independent Livings funded?**

Independent Livings are private homes or complexes; they are not licensed and do not receive public funding. Similar to apartment homes, residents sign rental agreements and pay monthly rent.

### **4. Are Independent Livings licensed?**

No, Independent Livings do not provide services to residents and do not require a license to operate.

Please note, there are several types of facilities that do offer services to residents, including Adult Residential Care Facilities, also known as Board and Cares, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Residential Care for the Elderly. These facilities require a license issued through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), Community Care Licensing (CCL) Program in the State of California.

### **5. Why do we need Independent Livings in San Diego?**

Independent Livings provide an invaluable service to the community by providing housing options for people with mental illness that fit their level of independence. Access to quality housing is one of the most effective ways to encourage recovery and help those that suffer from mental illness live a full and meaningful life.

Independent Livings also provide several benefits to the community, including decreased use of public services, homelessness and increased public safety. Providing stable and supportive housing is one of the most effective ways to decrease over utilization of emergency departments and hospital recidivism rates, resulting in decreased use of emergency medical services and significant savings in tax dollars.

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by Community Health Improvement Partners

### **1. What Quality Standards must ILA Members adhere to?**

The ILA Quality Standards are a comprehensive set of best practices recommended for Independent Livings. Members are expected to adhere to all eight ILA Quality Standards at the time membership is granted as well as throughout membership. ILA membership designates trusted and quality businesses; all ILA members are evaluated to ensure they adhere to the ILA Quality Standards.

**2. Does the ILA monitor members to ensure their continued compliance with ILA Quality Standards?**

Yes, ILA members participate in an annual Peer Review and Coaching opportunity to ensure their compliance with the ILA Quality Standards and to provide them with tools and resources to improve their business. The ILA is a neutral organization and handles grievances on a case by case basis.

**3. Does the ILA provide a comprehensive list of all Independent Livings in San Diego?**

Yes, the ILA recognizes the importance of providing the community with a comprehensive list of Independent Livings in San Diego County. A [master list](#) of all Independent Livings can be found on the [ilasd.org](http://ilasd.org) website.

**4. Can the ILA recommend a reputable Independent Living for me?**

The ILA is a neutral organization and refrains from recommending or endorsing a specific business, product or service.

ILA members must meet the [ILA Quality Standards](#) to qualify for membership. You can search the [ILA Directory](#) for ILA Members. ILA membership demonstrates trust and quality; many residents, family members and healthcare organizations prefer to use ILA members when selecting housing options.

**5. Does the ILA resolve resident or community complaints?**

As a professional association, we are only able to address complaints dealing with ILA members' violation of the ILA Quality Standards or Membership Requirements. Specifically, we do not handle the following types of complaints: those against non-member Independent Livings, those against housing that is not an Independent Living, claims about amenities, or for issues that do not violate the rental agreement/house rules. Please see the following list of resources that might be helpful.

<b>Issues Regarding</b>	<b>Resource</b>
<b>Resident &amp; Mental Health Consumer Violations</b>	<b><u>The Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy</u></b> Provides investigation of mental health patient's complaints (is designated by the County of San Diego as a patients' rights advocate for outpatient mental health services). 1764 San Diego Avenue, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92110 (877) 734-3258 <a href="http://healthconsumer.org/">http://healthconsumer.org/</a>

<b>Landlord/ Tenant Violations</b>	<p><u>California Department of Consumer Affairs.</u></p> <p>The link below will bring you to a guide of residential tenants' and landlords' rights and responsibilities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/index.shtml">http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/index.shtml</a></p>
<b>Patient Rights/ Level of Care</b>	<p><b><u>Community Care Licensing</u></b></p> <p>Licenses and oversees both day care and residential facilities for children and adults in the State of California.</p> <p><a href="http://cclcd.ca.gov/">http://cclcd.ca.gov/</a></p>
<b>Dangerous Housing and Living Conditions</b>	<p><b><u>California Code of Regulations (CCR)</u></b></p> <p>CCR is the official compilation and publication of the regulations adopted, amended or repealed by state agencies pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Properly adopted regulations that have been filed with the Secretary of State have the force of law.</p> <p><a href="http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslice/default.asp?Action=TOC&amp;RS=GVT1.0&amp;VR=2.0&amp;SP=CCR-1000">http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslice/default.asp?Action=TOC&amp;RS=GVT1.0&amp;VR=2.0&amp;SP=CCR-1000</a></p>

## **6. How is the ILA funded?**

The Independent Living Association is facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners and funded by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services Innovations Program funded by the Mental Health Services Act.

### *Disclaimer:*

*This information should not be construed as legal advice. We encourage Independent Living owners, residents and others to consult legal counsel regarding any matter related to landlord/tenant rights, patient rights, care and treatment. Actual cases may vary, and may turn on specific facts.*