

Week 3 Overview: Laws on Mental Disorders and Access to Community and Services

Welcome to week three. We are officially a third of the way through the course. I cannot believe how fast life is going. I will have a chance for you to assess your learning experience this week, so please be mindful of reflecting on your participation thus far.

This week our learning objectives will be the following:

- Discuss how federal legislation and court decisions reflect changing values in society and shape the treatment of people with mental disorders in all areas of life, including the criminal justice system.
- Identify important laws and court decisions that determine access to community services for people with mental disorders.
- Describe how the Americans with Disabilities Act and other key legislation is applied in the criminal justice system.
- Explain the importance of federal enforcement of protections for people with mental disorders in the criminal justice system.

This week we explore a series of court cases that have changed the way we address concerns with disabilities in our society. We also examine the role the courts play in furthering policy development.