

BRIEF SELF-ADVOCACY MOVEMENT HISTORY



1960'S

In the late 1960's Swedish recreational advocacy groups were started by Dr. Bengt Nirje to teach people with disabilities about making their own choices. In the U.S. Ed Roberts advocated for the Independent Living Movement for people with disabilities.



1970'S

The 'People First' Movement was created to express that people with disabilities were people first, before their diagnosis, igniting 'Person First' language. Advocacy conventions started happening around the United States.



1970'S-1990'S

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 made Federal discrimination against disabilities illegal. The Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 expanded the reach to public and private locations, local government services, and employment.



1990'S - NOW

With rulings like Olmstead in 1999 (requiring states to provide integrated settings) and Rosa's Law in 2009 (getting rid of the 'MR' diagnosis and using 'Intellectual Disability' in it's place) self-advocacy is still growing **and** with your voice it will continue to grow!

