

AARP Foundation Continues the Fight for the Civil Rights on Behalf of a Class of Thousands of D.C. Citizens

On July 5, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit [overturned](#) a 2017 federal district court decision and restored the civil rights of thousands of D.C. residents with disabilities who want to transition from nursing facilities back to their own homes. (*Brown v. District of Columbia*, 17-7152) People with disabilities have a civil right to live in the community, if able, and avoid unnecessary placement in institutional settings such as nursing facilities. However, people who have lived for long periods in nursing facilities typically need help reconnecting with their communities. They need help applying for D.C. services, identifying available housing options, and selecting the right Medicaid-funded home care aides that can assist them to live in their homes. In 2010, Ivy Brown and other D.C. residents decried the city’s failure to provide transition services that would allow them to move back into their homes and communities. AARP Foundation, Disability Rights D.C. at University Legal Services, and the law firm of Arent Fox, LLP originally brought this lawsuit against the D.C. on behalf of the class. AARP Foundation and Relman, Dane & Colfax represented the class on appeal.

“This year marks the 20th anniversary of the momentous *Olmstead v. L.C.* case, which is widely hailed as the *Brown v. Board of Education* for people with disabilities as it ended the District’s discriminatory nursing facility segregation policy,” said Kelly Bagby, AARP Foundation Vice President for Litigation. “On behalf of thousands of class members in nursing facilities on D.C. Medicaid, AARP Foundation views the D.C. Circuit decision as a great opportunity to mark this anniversary by continuing the fight for civil rights.”

#