

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DISABILITY RIGHTS IN SHELTER AND HOUSING PROGRAMS

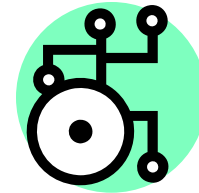
A PERSON IS DEFINED AS HAVING A DISABILITY IF:

- That person has a physical or mental condition that limits what he or she must do on a day-to-day basis such as walking, talking, breathing, hearing, seeing, speaking, learning, or taking care of yourself,
- That person is treated or viewed as having a mental or physical disability, or
- That person has a record of medical care or treatment for a mental or physical disability.



The Community Partnership manages the DC Continuum of Care which provides prevention services, street outreach, severe weather, low barrier and temporary shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services for homeless individuals.

*Reasonable
Accommodation*



**Civil Rights
Protection**



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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
-TO BE FREE FROM
DISCRIMINATION,
-TO BE IN THE MOST
INTEGRATED SETTING
POSSIBLE, AND
-TO REQUEST REASONABLE
ACCOMMODATIONS

If you or a household member has a disability you have the right to be free from disability discrimination, as well as the right to live with others who may or may not have a disability. Details, such as how serious, or how you, your family or doctor work with your disabilities are private. Only information needed for special programs and services, and verification of the need for an accommodation may be requested by the housing provider.

What is a reasonable accommodation?

If your disability makes it difficult or impossible to participate equally, follow the rules, or get in and out of places, an accommodation must be made for you if it is reasonable. An accommodation is reasonable if it is not so costly as to hurt the shelter's program and does not change the shelter's program or service.

ASKING FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUIRES NO MAGICAL WORDS

Ask your Shelter Staff for an accommodation. When you ask for an accommodation you will be asked to fill out a form. You must fill out this form so that your request may be considered. If you want, a staff person will help you complete the form. This form will cover three basic points:

1. Your disability,
2. Your request for the shelter to make a change in how it does things or a change in your living space,
3. That the change is necessary for you to participate equally in the shelter program because of your disability.

What can the shelter staff ask so that you qualify for an accommodation? The shelter is looking for three things that can be verified by you or by a person who knows about you and your disability. The shelter staff will ask for information that:

1. Shows that you have a disability,
2. Explains the connection between the accommodation and the disability,
3. Describes how the accommodation will work for you.

The shelter must keep all of your information confidential.

What is a shelter not allowed to do?

A shelter may not ask for your medical records or details about your disability,

What can a shelter do?

A shelter may offer an alternative accommodation that is different from what you asked for, but it must consider your request.

Can a shelter refuse a requested accommodation? Yes, if:

1. You do not have a disability,
2. The accommodation is not reasonable— costs too much or if the request changes the shelter's program or service,
3. The accommodation is either not related to your disability or not necessary for you to access the program's services.

If you think your rights have been ignored or violated you can do the following:

1. Make a complaint to the Department of Human Services ADA Coordinator, at 202-671-4422 phone, 202-671-0180 fax or 202-671-4495 TTY.
2. Request a "Fair Hearing" from the Office of Administrative Hearings at 202-727-8280 within 90 days of the discriminatory act (staff must help you with the process),
3. File a complaint with the D.C. Office of Human Rights at 202-727-4559 or 202-727-8673 TTY within 180 days of the act of discrimination, or
4. Mail a complaint to the Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Civil Rights Division, Disability Rights Section-NYA, Washington, DC 20530.

