Minnesota Independent Living Network

Service Animals &

The ADA



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**What You Should Know about Service Animals and the ADA**

Many people with disabilities use a service animal in order to fully participate in everyday life. Dogs can be trained to perform many important tasks to assist people with disabilities, such as providing stability for a person who has difficulty walking, picking up items for a person who uses a wheelchair, preventing a child with autism from wandering away, or alerting a person who has hearing loss when someone is approaching from behind.

The ADA explains what businesses and state/local governments must do to make sure that they do not discriminate against a member of the public with a disability who uses a service animal.

Generally, businesses and non-profits that are open to the public as well as state/local governments must allow service animals to go most places where the public can go. This is true even if they have a “no pets” policy.

**37 Frequently Asked Questions about Service Animals and the ADA**

(under the following headings: Definition of a Service Animal; General Rules; Certification and Registration; Breeds; Exclusion of Service animals; Miscellaneous; Resources)  
<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-faqs/>

For more specific information about these questions and answers, consult the following page:  
<https://www.ada.gov/resources/service-animals-2010-requirements/>

**The Fair Housing Act and Assistance Animals**

You and your assistance animal or emotional support animal have rights.  
<https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/fair-housing-act-and-assistance-animals>

The Fair Housing Act (FHA) is a federal law that prevents discrimination against tenants in their homes.

Under the FHA, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment which significantly limits a person’s major life activities. Even if a lease says "no pets" or restricts pets, landlords are required to make what is called a “reasonable accommodation” to allow pets who serve as assistance animals, which includes emotional support animals.  
  
**For more information about the ADA, please visit**[**ADA.gov**](https://www.ada.gov/)**or call the toll-free number:**

[ADA Information Line](https://www.ada.gov/infoline/) 800-514-0301 (Voice) and 1-833-610-1264 (TTY) M-W, F 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 3:00–5:30 p.m., Th 2:30–5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) to speak with an ADA Specialist. Calls are confidential.  
  
To contact the Minnesota Independent Living Network:

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