Guidance Concerning Service Animals in Hotels



This information is intended as informal guidance only. It should not be considered legal advice. If you feel you need legal advice, you should contact a disability rights attorney licensed to practice in your state.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) considers an inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging a place of public accommodation (42 USC 12181(7)(A)). Lodging establishments may not require documentation for the service animal but may ask two questions:

- 1. Is this a service dog required because of a disability? And
- 2. What work or tasks is the dog trained to perform? (28 CFR Section 36.302(c)(6)).

A guest may not be charged pet deposits or other fees because of the presence of the service animal, but may be charged for any damage caused by a service animal if it is their policy to charge other guests for damages they cause (28 CFR Section 36.302(c)(8)).

Places of lodging may not restrict an individual accompanied by a service animal from pool decks, restaurants, fitness centers, or any place other guests are generally allowed (28 CFR Section 36.302(c)(7)). The dog

must be kept under the handler's direct control and must be kept on a leash or tether, unless doing so would interfere with the tasks or work the dog is trained to perform (28 CFR Section 36.302(c)(4)). Individuals accompanied by service animals may not be required to accept a room that is designated for the disabled, on a specific floor, one generally required for guests with pets, or any other accommodation, aid, service, opportunity, or benefit (42 USC 12201(d)).



This information is provided by Advocates for Service Animal Partners. It is intended as informal guidance only and should not be construed as legal advice. For more information, you may contact





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