

FAIR HOUSING

FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



DISABILITY AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS/ MODIFICATIONS

The right to reasonable accommodation and modification in housing exists under federal and Oregon civil rights laws for individuals with disabilities who meet certain legal requirements



Disability under the Fair Housing Act

Under the Fair Housing Act, disability is defined as any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. These activities could include: walking, speaking, hearing, seeing, breathing, working, learning, performing manual tasks, and caring for oneself.



Examples of disabilities might include:

Speech and hearing impairments, autism, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, HIV, developmental disabilities, mental illness (depression, schizophrenia, anxiety), drug addiction, and alcoholism.

Examples of reasonable accommodations or modifications might include:

- Assigning an accessible parking space for a person with a mobility impairment
- Permitting a tenant to transfer to a ground-floor unit
- Adjusting a rent payment schedule to accommodate when an individual receives income assistance
- Adding a grab bar to a tenant's bathroom
- Permitting an applicant to submit a housing application via a different means (paper vs. email vs. fax)
- Permitting an assistance animal in a "no pets" building for a person who is deaf, blind, has seizures, or has a mental disability.

Unless the disability is evident, you must provide verification of your disability to the housing provider from a qualified individual who can verify you meet the definition of disability as defined by the fair housing act and that the accommodation or modification is needed for equal access or enjoyment to housing.

A request for a reasonable accommodation or modification may be denied if providing the accommodation or modification would impose an undue financial and administrative burden on the housing provider, be a direct threat to residents or property, or it would fundamentally alter the nature of the housing provider's program.

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Sample Letter



To whom it may concern:

As defined by the Fair Housing Act, I am a person living with a disability. In accordance with the Fair Housing Act, I am asking for a reasonable accommodation/reasonable modification to (identify the request).

This request is necessary for me as a person with a disability to have equal access/have reasonable enjoyment of my housing. With this request, I have included (list documentation that verifies disability and its connection to the RA/RM request).

Please respond to this request by (date).

Thank you for your time and consideration,
(Insert your name and then sign)

Additional information on disability advocacy can be found on our website: www.fhco.org



Informational video on fair housing and reasonable accommodations



FHCO Disability Guide



Accommodations FAQ

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