According to federal civil rights laws, the definition of disability includes:

- a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment; or being regarded as having such an impairment...

- physical or mental impairment includes: (1) any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological; musculoskeletal; special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular, reproductive, digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin, and endocrine; or (2) any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities...

- the term ‘physical or mental impairment’ includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech and hearing impairment, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Human Immunodeficiency Virus infection, mental retardation, emotional illness, drug addiction (other than addiction caused by current, illegal use of a controlled substance) and alcoholism.

As a medical/social service professional with knowledge necessary to make such a determination, I certify that

___________________________
qualifies as an individual with a disability as defined above. (IMPORTANT: Do NOT reveal the specific NATURE OR SEVERITY of the individual’s disability).

Certifying Individual:

____________________________________________________________
Date: ____________________

The Fair Housing Act Protects You

Creating Inclusive Communities of Opportunity
Persons with disabilities are protected by the Fair Housing Act. A disability is defined as any impairment that substantially limits a major life activity such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. In addition to physical disabilities, protection extends to those with mental and emotional disabilities as well.

In order for a person with a disability to fully use and enjoy their home, they may require changes to an apartment or house. Depending on the situation, a housing provider may be required to allow or provide for such changes.

• **Reasonable Accommodation**

  A change in a rule, policy, practice, or service is a reasonable accommodation. Examples include: allowing an assistance animal when pets are not allowed, creating a reserved parking space for a tenant with a disability, or requesting a ground floor residence due to limited mobility. Any minimal costs associated with a reasonable accommodation are generally paid by the tenant, but housing providers receiving federal funding are required to absorb costs.

  A landlord may NOT refuse to offer you the rental agreement he offers others:

  • “You can only live here if there is someone to take care attendants.”

  • “I do not allow people to live in my apartments with 24-hour personal care attendants.”

  • “Sorry, there are no apartments available.” (If an apartment is available.)

  • “I don’t want someone with a disability living in my building.”

  • “I cannot rent to you. I am afraid of future liability, if you get sick.”

  • “People who use wheelchairs damage apartments. You have to leave a double security deposit.”

  • “You can only live here if there is someone to take care of you.”

  • “Why do you receive SSI?”

  • “Do you take medications?”

  • “Have you ever been in a drug rehabilitation program?”

  • “Have you ever been hospitalized because of a mental disability?”

  • “Have you ever been in a drug rehabilitation program?”

• **Reasonable Modification**

  A structural change, or an alteration of the premises, is a reasonable modification. Examples include: installation of grab bars, ramps, or lowered countertops. Costs for reasonable modifications are generally paid by the tenant, but housing providers receiving federal funding are required to absorb the cost.

  A landlord may NOT refuse to make a reasonable accommodation or modification:

  • “You can only live here if there is someone to take care of you.”

  • “I do not allow people to live in my apartments with 24-hour personal care attendants.”

At the right of this page we have attached a request for reasonable accommodation form that you may complete and provide to your landlord.

If you would like further help, please contact The Fair Housing Center at 419-243-6163 or visit our website at toledohfr.org.

**REQUEST FOR AN ACCOMMODATION OF A HOUSING POLICY**

- **reason for accommodation:**

- **relationship between the disability and the need for the accommodation:**

- **description of the needed accommodation/modification:**

- **verification of the qualified disability:**

- **signature:**

- **date:**

**Thank you for your attention to this important matter.**