

Do I Have Disability Rights?

You have disability rights if:

- ✓ You have a disability (a mental or physical problem that makes it hard to do day-to-day activities).
- ✓ You are treated like you have a disability.
- ✓ You used to have a disability.

What Are Some Examples of Disabilities?

- learning disabilities,
- mental retardation,
- depression,
- schizophrenia,
- deafness,
- blindness,
- leg or back conditions that make it hard to walk.

These are some examples but there are many other types of disabilities.

What Are My Disability Rights in Shelter?

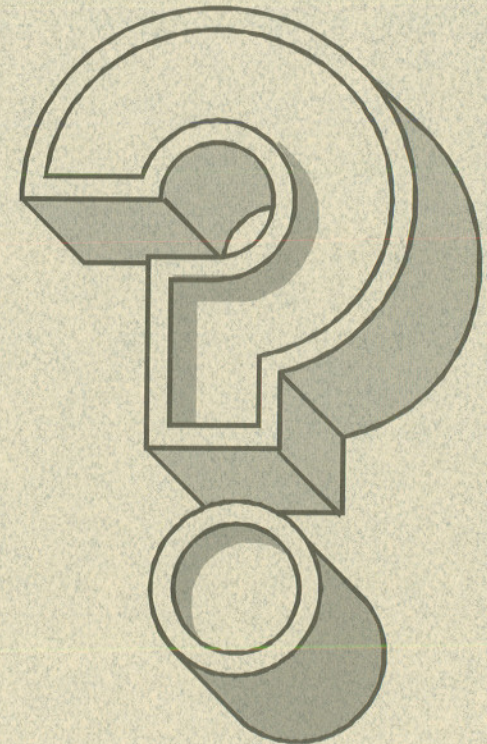
- ✓ To be free from discrimination.
- ✓ To be placed or receive services in the most integrated way possible.
- ✓ To receive a "reasonable accommodation" for your disability.
- ✓ To be free from questions from staff about whether you have a disability or about details of your disability unless: 1) the shelter or its services are limited to people with disabilities, or 2) you have asked for a "reasonable accommodation" and the shelter asks for proof of your needs.



What Is a Reasonable Accommodation?

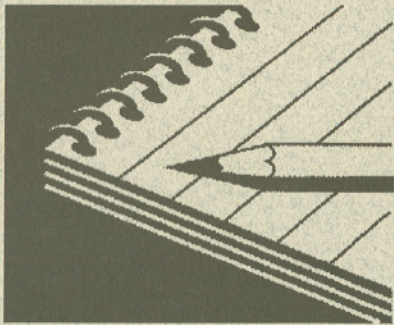
Sometimes your disability makes it hard for you to participate equally, follow shelter rules, or even get in and out of your living space without some changes in the shelter.

A **reasonable accommodation** is a change to a rule, program, service, or to the shelter building that allows you to participate equally in the program.



How Do I Request a Reasonable Accommodation?

- ✓ Ask a staff member for an accommodation, or
- ✓ Fill out a "Reasonable Accommodation Request Form."

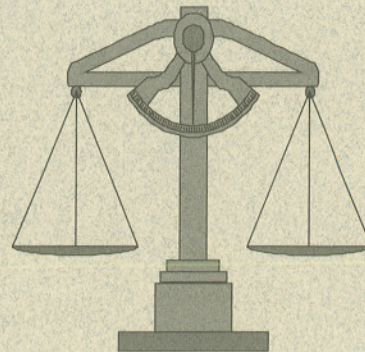


There are no "Magic Words!" Just cover 3 basic points:

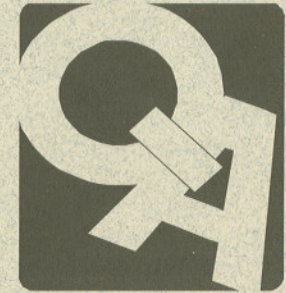
- 1) You have a Disability.
- 2) You need the shelter to make a change in the program or the shelter space.
- 3) Because of your disability, the change is necessary to participate equally in the shelter program.

What Do I Do if My Disability Rights Have Been Violated?

- ✓ Contact the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless at (202)328-5500 for free legal advice or representation.
- ✓ Ask for a "Fair Hearing" from the Office of Administrative Hearings within 90 days. Call (202)727-8280 or tell a shelter staff member that you want a Fair Hearing.
- ✓ File a complaint with DC Office of Human Rights within 180 or 365 days (depending on the type of claim). Call 202-727-4559.



Do you have a disability?



Having a hard time getting into shelter?

Have Questions about Disability Rights in Emergency Shelter?

Open this up and get the answers!

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
1200 U St., NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 328-5500