

service dogs welcome!™

Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities
who have trained service animals

The federal civil rights law, the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III, 28 CFR Sec 36.104, defines a service animal as any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability (the disability might not be visible). By law, a service animal is not considered a pet. Most service animals are dogs; they can be any breed or size, and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. The ADA does not require proof or "certification" of the service dog's training. Service animals are trained to do specific tasks for the benefit of people with physical or mental impairments.

Federal (e.g., 28 CFR Sec 36.302) and state laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service animals in taxis, buses, trains, stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, schools, parks, hotels and other public places. Federal laws which protect individuals with disabilities include the ADA; the Fair Housing Amendments Act (1988); Sect. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973); The Air Carrier Access Act (1986), and other regulations.

State and local laws* which protect the rights of individuals who have disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals are (fill in the code numbers of the laws that apply):

***NOTE: If federal and state or local law conflict, the law that provides greater protection for the individual with the disability will prevail.** For example, if state law grants access only by service dogs that do guide work, and the service dog in question performs work other than guide work, federal law will apply. The person with the disability must be permitted access with the service dog.

The person who is accompanied by the service animal is responsible for its stewardship (behavior, care and well-being), must obey animal welfare laws (such as leash, cruelty or other similar regulations), and is liable for any damage done by the service animal.

For more information about service animals, visit the
Delta Society® National Service Dog Center® on
Delta's web site: www.deltasociety.org

About the ADA, contact the U.S. Department of Justice
ADA Information Line 800-514-0301 (V); 800-514-0383 (TDD)

About state and local laws, contact the
State Attorney General's Office

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Instructions:

1. Cut around the outside border of the column of text.
2. Write your local laws and phone numbers in the space provided on the card. Write other helpful information on the back.
3. Laminate the card.
4. Fold in thirds, so the finished card is the size of a business card.