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Section 1: What is a Service Dog?

DOJ Definition of a Service Dog

The Department of Justice defines a "service animal" as "any guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including, but not limited to, guiding individuals with impaired vision, alerting individuals with impaired hearing to intruders or sounds, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items." (See http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleII_2010/reg2_2010.html for DOJ interpretations of the content of this definition).

ADA Business Brief: Service Animals

<http://www.ada.gov/svcanimb.htm>

<http://www.ada.gov/qasrvc.htm>

2. How Can I Get A Service Dog?

NOTE: There is no one path to getting a service dog. Below are some links that may be of assistance in learning about service dogs.

For information about school-trained dogs see Assistance Dogs International (ADI) has a list of member training schools <http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/membershipdirectory.php>

For information about owner-training, see <http://www.topdogusa.org/>

The American Dog Trainers Network also provides a list <http://www.inch.com/~dogs/service.html>

Working like Dogs <http://www.workinglikedogs.com/>

3. What Are the Professional, Advocacy and Membership Organizations in the Service Dog Field?

Assistance Dogs International (ADI)

<http://www.assistancedogsinternational.org/>

Assistance Dogs International, Inc. is a coalition of not for profit organizations that train and place Assistance Dogs. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of Assistance Dogs as well as staff and volunteer education.

International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP)

<http://www.iaadp.org/>

NOTE The IAADP is a membership organization that is specifically for people with service dogs. There is a membership category for "friends". The IAADP website contains some of the best lists of legal, regulatory and policy information. IAADP's mission is to (1) provide assistance dog partners with a voice in the assistance dog field; (2) enable those partnered with guide dogs, hearing dogs and service dogs to work together on issues of mutual concern; (3) to foster the disabled person / assistance dog partnership.

Partners Forum Newsletters

<http://www.iaadp.org/newsletter.html>

Assistance Dog Laws and Legal Resources

<http://www.iaadp.org/doglaws.html>

Coalition of Assistance Dog Users (CADO)

<http://www.gdui.org/cado.html>

CADO is a coalition with the major players in the service dog arena, They have been particularly important in advocacy regarding federal policy for public access.

4. The Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division CFR Regarding Service Animals

Summary that includes portions of the DOJ document

<http://www.iaadp.org/doj-def-comments-Title-II-III-SA.html>

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Civil Rights Division

Final Rule

28 CFR Part 35

CRT Docket No. 105; AG Order No.

RIN 1190-AA46

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services

This is a large document containing information on multiple aspects of civil rights for people with disabilities. Search the document for the word "service animal" and "service dog" to locate the

references. There is a large section under the "Service Animal" header. This is the section that has been placed on the IAADP website.

5. How Can I Find Specific Legal Cases and Consent Decrees with the DOJ ADA Office

<http://www.ada.gov/srchada.htm>

6. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Reasonable Accommodation

Enforcement Guidance: Reasonable Accommodation and Undue Hardship Under the Americans with Disabilities Act

<http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/accommodation.html#general>

Notice Concerning The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008

http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/adaaa_notice.cfm

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION 29 CFR Part 1630 RIN 3046-AA85 Regulations To Implement the Equal Employment Provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act, as Amended

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-22840.pdf>

Questions and Answers on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/docs/qanda_adaaa_nprm.pdf