

Provisions for Guide Dogs in Public Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Louisiana Law

Americans with Disabilities Act-- Guide Dog Coverage

Under the ADA and its implementing regulations, the right of a blind person to be accompanied by a dog guide in places which serve the public is guaranteed. Section 26.104 of Title 3 specifies that "service animals," which include dog guides, are covered by the statute. The right of a blind person to be accompanied by a dog guide is guaranteed and the term "public accommodation" is also defined under this provision.

Public accommodations include: (1) Hotels, inns, motels or other places of lodging; (2) Restaurants, bars or other establishments serving food or drink; (3) Motion picture houses, theaters, concert halls, stadium or other places of exhibition or entertainment; (4) Auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls or other places of public gathering; (5) Grocery, clothing, or hardware stores, bakeries, shopping centers or other sales or rental establishments; (6) Laundromats, dry cleaners, banks, barber and beauty shops, travel services, shoe repair, funeral parlor, gas stations, office of an accountant or lawyer, pharmacy, insurance office or professional office of a health care provider, hospital or any service establishment; (7) Terminal, depot or other station used for public transportation; (8) Museums, libraries, galleries or other places of display or collection; (9) Parks, amusement parks or other places of recreation; (10) Nursery, elementary, secondary, under-graduate or postgraduate school or places of education; (11) Day care centers, senior citizen centers, homeless shelters, food banks, adoption agencies or any other social services; (12) Gymnasiums, health spas, bowling alleys, golf courses or other places of exercise.

The above list is illustrative. Facilities not mentioned that fall into these categories are intended for coverage.

Louisiana White Cane Law: Chapter 23, Acts of 1982, No. 518, Section 1, R. S. 46:1951 through 46:1954; Penalty-Acts of 1962, Number 33, Section 1, R. S. 21: 52 amended in 1981. Louisiana statutes guarantee a blind person the legal right to be accompanied by a dog guide trained by a dog guide school in all places of public accommodation and on all public conveyances. The dog may not occupy a seat and the dog guide user should have his or her identification card (furnished by the school that trained the dog) with him or her. Public accommodations include hotels, lodging places, restaurants, stores, places of resort and amusement, and all other places to which the public is invited. (R. S. 46: 1952). Public conveyances include trains, buses, airplanes, taxis, streetcars, boats, and all other common carriers. (R. S. 46: 1952).