



Letters from Medical Providers to Support Reasonable Modifications/Accommodations Requests

If you are a tenant with a disability seeking a reasonable accommodation or modification from your landlord or other housing provider, a letter from your medical provider can be critical in explaining the nature of your disability and its impact on your life activities. Medical letters can be especially helpful in explaining the connection between your housing, your disability, and the requested modifications or accommodations.

Are letters from medical providers necessary to support reasonable modifications and accommodations requests?

Your housing provider may request medical documentation to confirm that (1) you have a disability, if it is not apparent, and (2) your modifications or accommodations request is directly related to your disability. You are not required to release your medical records.

What should the letter contain?

Recommended information includes:

- The medical provider's credentials and qualifications
- How long the medical provider has treated you and when they last examined you
- A statement that you have a physical or mental impairment that has been diagnosed
- Statements about how this impairment impacts a life activity (i.e. seeing, hearing, walking, standing, bending, performing manual tasks, communicating)
- A description of why the modification or accommodation is necessary to provide equal opportunity to use and enjoy your home

Example of Provider Letter

To Whom It May Concern / Dear [Housing Provider]:

Our patient [NAME] has [CONDITION/GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF IMPAIRMENT] and has been a patient of ours since [DATE]. We last examined them on [DATE]. Our office specializes in/treats patients with [INFORMATION].

[PATIENT NAME]'s [condition/impairment] impacts their ability to [DESCRIPTION OF IMPACT ON LIFE ACTIVITY].

In order to safely use and enjoy their home, it is necessary that [NAME] be granted specific reasonable modifications/accommodations, as follows: [LIST MODIFICATIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS].

Thank you for your consideration.

[SIGNATURE]

Does the letter have to disclose the details of my diagnosis?

Not necessarily. It is usually sufficient for the medical provider to use terms like "neurological conditions," "mental illness," or "mobility impairment" without disclosing specific details.

Where can I learn more?

To learn more about reasonable modifications or accommodations requests, or if you think you are experiencing any form of housing discrimination, contact the FHJC. We will help sort out the facts and provide information about your rights and options under fair housing laws. Our counseling and investigative services are provided for free, regardless of income. You can also see our fact sheets on *Reasonable Modifications*, *Reasonable Accommodations*, and our *Adele Friedman Housing Accessibility Fund* sheet for information about resources available to tenants.