

A service animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.

Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not considered service animals under Title II and Title III of the ADA. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals either. It does not matter if a person has a note from a health care provider that states that the person has a disability and needs to have the animal for emotional support. A doctor's letter does not turn an animal into a service animal.

A service animal must be trained to perform a specific disability-related task to be considered a service animal. Describing what a service animal does for its handler is not enough. The person must show how the service animal responds to specific cues or triggers. The animal must be completely trained to perform specific disability-related tasks. An animal that is still in training cannot be considered a service animal.

A person must have a disability as defined by the ADA in order to use their service animal in places of public accommodation or state and local government facilities. The ADA defines a person with a disability as a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Questions for those wanting to admit a service animal:

1. Does the person have a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act? If not, no service animal is admitted. (Disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.)
2. Is the animal completely trained (not in training) to do work or perform specific disability related tasks? If not, the animal is not admitted.
3. Can the person show how the service animal responds to specific cues or triggers? If not, the animal is not admitted.

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[Signature]
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
WILKINSON COUNTY, GEORGIA

SCANNED
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