

Notice of ADA/Section 504 Rights

Help for People with Disabilities

The Georgia Department of Human Services and the Georgia Department of Community Health ("the Departments") are required by federal law* to provide persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and qualify for the Departments' programs, services, or activities. This includes programs such as SNAP, TANF and Medical Assistance.

The Departments provide reasonable modifications when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination based on disability. For example, we may change policies, practices, or procedures to provide equal access. To ensure equally effective communication, we provide persons with disabilities or their companions with disabilities communication assistance, such as sign language interpreters. Our help is free. The Departments are not required to make any modification that would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of a service, program or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens.

How to Request a Reasonable Modification or Communication Assistance

Please contact your caseworker if you have a disability and need a reasonable modification, communication assistance, or extra help. For instance, call if you need an aid or service for effective communication, like a sign language interpreter. You may contact your caseworker or call DFCS at 404-657-3433 or DCH at 678-248-7449 to make your request. You may also make your request using the DFCS ADA Reasonable Modification Request Form, which is available at your local DFCS office or online at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/adasection-504-and-civil-rights>, or you may obtain the DCH ADA Reasonable Modification Request Form at the DCH Katie Beckett (KB) Team office or online at <https://medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/all-programs/tefrakatie-beckett>, but you do not have to use a form.

How to File a Complaint

You have the right to make a complaint if the Departments have discriminated against you because of your disability. For example, you may file a discrimination complaint if you have asked for a reasonable modification or sign language interpreter that has been denied or not acted on within a reasonable time. You can make a complaint orally or in writing by contacting your case worker, your local DFCS office, or the DFCS Civil Rights, ADA/Section 504 Coordinator at 2 Peachtree Street N.W., Ste 19-454, Atlanta, GA, 30303, 404-657-3735. For DCH, contact the KB TEAM ADA/Section 504 Coordinator at: 2211 Beaver Ruin Road, Suite 150, Norcross, GA 30071 or P.O. Box 172 Norcross, GA. 30091, 678-248-7449.

You can ask your case worker for a copy of the DFCS civil rights complaint form. The complaint form is also available at <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/adasection-504-and-civil-rights>. If you need help making a discrimination complaint, you may contact the DFCS staff listed above. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who may have speech disabilities may call 711 for an operator to connect with us.

You may also file a discrimination complaint with the appropriate federal agency. Contact information for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is within the "USDA-HHS Joint Nondiscrimination Statement" included within.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 ensure persons with disabilities are free from unlawful discrimination.*

Nondiscrimination Statement

This institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex and in some cases religion or political beliefs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture also prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027), found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers (click the link for a listing of hotline numbers by State); found online at: http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/contact_info/hotlines.htm.

To file a complaint of discrimination regarding a program receiving Federal financial assistance through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), write: HHS Director, Office for Civil Rights, Room 515-F, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201 or call (800) 368-1019 (voice) or (800) 537-7697 (TTY).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.