

Patient Information

Last Name	First Name
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Physician Information

Last Name		First Name	
Clinic Name	License Number	Telephone	Fax
Clinic Address	City/town	Province	Postal Code

Physician's Instruction:

Please complete the following needs confirmation statement for the above-mentioned patient who has declared their need for a service dog that was not received through an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs, International (ADI). In the absence of certification from an organization accredited by the ADI where medical documentation is received prior to receiving the service animal, the University of Saskatchewan requires a medical letter to verify the need of a service animal in owner or privately trained situations.

Physicians Statement:

I understand the definition of a service dog as outlined by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission's Policy on Service Animals (see appendix A) and verify that the above-mentioned patient has a disability that is long term in duration and requires the use of a fully trained service animal to assist them in their activities of daily living. The category of service dog the patient is requiring is _____ (see appendix A)

I have referred to the guidelines of common and appropriate found in appendix B and can verify that the tasks mentioned below will assist the patient in mitigating the symptoms of their disability while on the University of Saskatchewan campus.

The tasks that the service dog will be or has been trained specifically to perform are as followed:

Physician Signature	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
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The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code (the “Code”) requires the accommodation of persons with disabilities, including persons who use service animals, in housing, employment, education, and access to public services and places. Disability is a protected category under the Code. It includes physical and mental disabilities^[1].

i. Service animals assist persons with disabilities

People who use service animals require the animal to assist with symptoms or limitations arising from their disabilities. Although service animals have traditionally helped people with physical disabilities such as blindness, deafness or limited mobility, there are a wide range of other disabilities for which service animals provide assistance, including psychiatric disabilities.

ii. Examples of service animals

Service animals may be trained to provide services such as guidance for a person who is blind or to retrieve small items that are not accessible by a handler with physical limitations. Persons with psychiatric, intellectual or mental disabilities also use service animals. Pursuant to this policy, the requirement for accommodation of a service animal only occurs when a person with a disability requires an animal with specialized training to assist that person with a recognized disability. The following are examples of service animals:

- A **Guide Dog** is a trained service dog that is used as a travel tool for persons with visual impairments, are blind or have low-vision.
- A **Hearing Dog** is a trained service dog which alerts a person with significant hearing loss, or who is deaf, to specific sounds such as a knock on the door.
- A **Assist Dog** is a trained dog which assists a person who has a mobility or health impairment. Types of duties the dog may perform include: carrying, fetching, opening doors, ringing doorbells, activating elevator buttons, steadying a person while walking, helping a person up after a fall, etc.
- A **SSigDog** is a Social Signal Dog trained to assist a person with autism. The dog may alert the partner to distracting or repetitive movements common amongst people with autism, allowing the person to stop the movement (eg. hand flapping). Recognizing familiar persons in a crowd, steering around a mud puddle, responding to other people or social signals, are all possible roles for SSigDogs. A person with autism may have sensory problems and require the same assistance from a dog as a person who is blind or deaf.
- A **Seizure Response Dog** is a trained service dog that assists a person with a seizure disorder. How the dog serves the person depends on the person’s needs. The dog may stand guard over the person during a seizure, or the dog may go for help. Some dogs are trained to predict a seizure and provide a warning.
- A **Psychiatric Service Animal** is a trained service animal that assists a person with a psychiatric disability. A Psychiatric Service Animal provides specific services to a person with a psychiatric disability, including, but not limited to: picking up/retrieving objects or aiding with mobility when the handler is dizzy from medication or has psychosomatic symptoms, waking the handler if the handler sleeps through alarms or cannot get out of bed, alerting and responding to episodes, reminding the handler to take medication, alerting and/or distracting the handler from repetitive and obsessive thoughts or behaviours.

iii. Examples of animals not covered by this policy

The accompaniment of a pet is not protected by the Code. Pets fall outside of this policy. Emotional support animals or therapy animals, which provide therapeutic benefits, but do not have specialized training to provide services for a disabled person, fall outside of this policy. Please see the Commission’s [Policy on Support Animals](#).

Access and Equity Services