

Documentation Form for Assistance Animal (Emotional Support)

**Please use additional paper as needed*

To be completed by the student:

Name:

Date:

1. Describe why you feel that, due to your disability, an assistance animal is required in order to have equal opportunity to use and enjoy your RIT residence.

2. Do you currently possess this animal?

YES

If **YES** – What type of animal is it?

NO

If **NO** – How will you determine if/how your future animal will actually provide the support you require?

To be completed by the student's doctor or qualified licensed mental health professional who is not employed by RIT or NTID:

1. Is this individual a "person with a disability" according to the following definition?
"Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities."

YES

If **YES** – Have you personally diagnosed this individual with a disability as defined in Appendix B of this document?

YES

NO

Please indicate this individual's specific diagnosis/diagnoses:

When was the last time you met with and evaluated/
re-evaluated this individual regarding this diagnosis?

NO

If **NO** – There is no need to continue further with this form

2 Describe how this individual’s diagnosed disability specifically affects their ability to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their RIT residence (for further information see Appendix B):

3. Has this individual made use of an assistance animal in the past?

YES **NO**

4. Has this individual made use of other treatments?

YES

If **YES** – Please describe the treatments and their effectiveness:

NO

If **NO** – Please indicate why not:

5. Do you believe that this individual specifically requires, as a direct result of their disability, the use of this assistance animal in order to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy their RIT residence?

YES

If **YES** – Please describe the relationship between the functional limitations of this individual and the use of this assistance animal:

If you are recommending the use of more than one animal please provide rationale:

NO

If **NO** – There is no need to continue further with this form

6. In your opinion, how would this individual's functioning be affected if they were not permitted to have their assistance animal in their RIT residence?

Name:

Signature:

Professional Title:

License Number:

Address:

Phone Number:

Appendix A — Definition of an Individual with a Disability

For the purpose of determining whether civil rights protections apply, a person is an "individual with a disability" if he or she has, or has a record of having, or is regarded as having, a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of his or her life activities.

A "physical impairment" is any physiological disorder or condition, loss, disease or disfigurement which affects one or more body systems. This includes, but is not limited to such contagious and noncontagious diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, specific learning disabilities, HIV disease (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic), tuberculosis, drug addiction, and alcoholism.

A "mental impairment" is any mental or psychological disorder such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities.

A physical or mental impairment "substantially limits" a person in one or more "major life activities" if it causes substantial difficulty in a person's ability to: care for one's self, perform manual tasks, walk, see, hear, speak, breathe, learn, and/or work.

Appendix B — The Fair Housing Act

The Fair Housing Act (FHAct), as well as Section 504 and the ADA, have regulations that prohibit discrimination because of disability. The FHAct states it is necessary to afford a person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling and/or the common areas of a dwelling, or to allow a qualified individual with a disability to participate in, or benefit from, any housing program or activity. The individual requesting the accommodation of use of an assistance animal must:

- have a disability – i.e., a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of his or her life activities;
- require the animal in order to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy/participate in campus housing; and
- verify a relationship between their disability and the assistance the animal provides – i.e., the animal provides emotional support that alleviates one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of the person's existing disability.

For more information see: portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=servanimals_ntcfheo2013-01.pdf