



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMISSIONER RONNELL A. HIGGINS

1111 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457 • (860) 685-8000

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT POLICY

PURPOSE

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) is committed to providing and promoting equal opportunities in all of its activities and services. This commitment includes following the mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), a federal law that makes it unlawful to discriminate against a qualified person with a disability in all aspects of the employment process and in the provision of services and benefits. DESPP also observes all Connecticut laws and regulations that apply to individuals with disabilities.

DESPP strictly prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. Further, it is the policy of DESPP not to exclude persons with a disability from participation in any program or activity. Accordingly, it is the policy of DESPP to provide access to all of its programs, services and facilities to persons with disabilities in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

WHAT IS A DISABILITY UNDER THE ADA?

Under the ADA, an individual with a disability is any person who (1) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) has a record of such an impairment; or (3) is regarded as having such an impairment.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

DESPP will reasonably accommodate the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability, unless the accommodation would impose an undue burden. DESPP will make every reasonable effort to determine and provide the appropriate reasonable accommodation to a qualified individual upon request. DESPP, in its discretion, may require the individual to provide additional information about their disability or limitations and the need for an accommodation. The ADA does not require DESPP to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

HOW TO REQUEST ACCOMODATION

In connection with current employment at DESPP or the interview process: Qualified employees or applicants with disabilities may request accommodations in order to perform the essential functions of their jobs or to gain access to the hiring process. Such requests should be made to the **DESPP Human Resource Division**.

In connection with facility-related matters/accommodations: Qualified individuals with a disability who require a facility-related accommodation should contact the **DESPP Human Resources Division**.

In connection with other programs, services or activities of DESPP: Qualified individuals with a disability who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of DESPP should contact **Ryan Howe, Acting Human Resources Business Partner 1, at (860) 597-1104** or the **DESPP ADA Coordinators, Ashley Burke at (860) 805-2358 and Alexis Cortes at (860) 816-8847** for assistance in coordinating the request for accommodation. The individual should be prepared to provide a description of their specific needs.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints regarding a denial for accommodation or that a DESPP program, service, or activity is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be filed in writing with the DESPP Coordinators Ashley Burke, Human Resources Specialist – Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Administrative Services, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1503, Hartford, CT 06103, telephone at (860) 805-2358, email at ashley.burke@ct.gov; or Alexis Cortes, Human Resources Specialist – Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Administrative Services, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 1503, Hartford, CT 06103, telephone at (860) 816-8847, email at alexis.cortes@ct.gov.

NO RETALIATION

DESPP strictly forbids retaliation against individuals who request an accommodation or otherwise exercise their rights under the ADA or Connecticut law. Agents of DESPP shall not retaliate against, coerce, intimidate, threaten, harass, or interfere with any individual exercising or enjoying their rights under the ADA or Connecticut law or because an individual aided or encouraged any other individual in the exercise of rights granted or protected by the ADA or State of Connecticut.



Ronnell A. Higgins
Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

3/28/24

Date