

Southern California Housing Rights Center
Rehabilitation Act Section 504 Policy

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law, codified at 29 U.S.C. § 794, that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in federally-assisted programs or activities. Specifically, Section 504 states: No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States. . .shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, service or activity receiving federal financial assistance or under any program or activity conducted by any Executive agency or by the United States Postal Service. This means that Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity that receives financial assistance from any federal agency, including HUD as well as in programs conducted by federal agencies including HUD. Persons with disabilities, persons associated with persons with disabilities, and other persons engaged in certain protected activities under the law.

An individual with a disability is any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The term physical or mental impairment may include, but is not limited to, conditions such as visual or hearing impairment, mobility impairment, HIV infection, developmental disabilities, drug addiction, or mental illness. In general, the definition of “person with disabilities” does not include current users of illegal controlled substances. However, individuals would be protected under Section 504 (as well as the ADA) if a purpose of the specific program or activity is to provide health or rehabilitation services to such individuals. The term major life activity may include, for example, seeing, hearing, walking, breathing, performing manual tasks, caring for one's self, learning, speaking, or working. This list is not exhaustive. Section 504 also protects persons who have a record of such impairment, or are regarded as having such an impairment.

Section 504 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity that receives federal financial assistance. This means, for example, that persons with disabilities may not be denied the opportunity to participate in a program or activity because of their disability; may not be required to accept a different kind or lesser program or service than what is provided to others without disabilities, and may not be required to participate in separate programs and services from those available to persons without disabilities, even if separate programs and services exist.

As the Southern California Housing Rights Center is a non-profit fair housing services provider that receives federal financial assistance, it adopts and implements the following policy:

It is the policy of the Housing Rights Center to abide by terms of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which include but may not be limited to:

- Not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of services or employment opportunities;
- Not deny persons with disabilities the opportunity to participate at all or require participation in a program of a different or lesser kind or where the programs and services are separate.

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- Provide necessary reasonable accommodations to employees and clients/visitors as requested.

The Section 504 Coordinator will receive Section 504 complaints and requests and will document them in a log. If you would like to ask questions or file a complaint, please contact the Section 504 Coordinator:

Monica Maldonado
Section 504 Coordinator
Housing Rights Center
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Los Angeles, CA 90010
mmaldonado@housingrightscenter.org
(213) 387-8400, ext. 1000

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Grievance/Complaint/Reasonable Accommodation Request Form

Name: _____

**Date submitted
to Section 504
Coordinator:** _____

Signature: _____

Complaint/Reasonable Accommodation Request:

Reason for Reasonable Accommodation Request:

Office use only

Notes:

