

Evangel University

VERIFICATION OF A DISABILITY AND ACCOMMODATION REQUEST BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Assistance Animal (Emotional Support Animal, ESA)

An Assistance Animal (ESA) is one that is necessary to afford the person with a disability an equal opportunity to use and enjoy Evangel University Housing. An Assistance Animal (ESA) may provide physical assistance, emotional support, calming, stability and other kinds of assistance. Assistance Animals (ESA) do not perform work or tasks that would qualify them as "service animals" under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistance Animals (ESA's) may still be permitted, in certain circumstances, in University Housing pursuant to the Fair Housing Act.

Assistance Animals (ESA's) are allowed in the immediate dwelling (residence hall room). Assistance Animals (ESA's) are not allowed in the common areas, dining hall, classrooms, library or other common areas of the campus.

Purpose: This questionnaire is designed to provide Student Support Services with information to evaluate an accommodation request to bring an ESA into University Housing. The attached form must be completed by the student's psychiatrist, psychologist, or relevantly trained and licensed mental health care provider. The provider may, as an alternative, write a letter or report that addresses all questions included in this form. The best way to ensure inclusion of all required information is to complete the form and add any additional supporting information in a letter on official letterhead. All documentation must be mailed from the mental health care provider directly to the Housing Office or Student Support Services Office at Evangel University.

Interactive Accommodation Process: The legal definition of a disability includes two elements: (1) a physical or mental impairment that (2) substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the person in question. Thus, disability has both diagnostic and functional elements, and **BOTH elements need to be documented for effective determination.**

Emotional distress resulting from having to give up an animal because of a "no pets" policy does not qualify a person for an accommodation under federal law.

When an Assistance Animal (ESA) is approved for the living environment, that animal must be confined to their crate or other container in the students' room while the student is attending classes, visiting the dining halls, at the library, etc.

Assistance Animal (Emotional Support Animal, ESA) Documentation Information Form

Student Contact Information (Student completes this section)

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone Number: _____ Student Identification Number: _____

Student's requested accommodation is for the following term:

☐ Fall _____ ☐ Spring _____ ☐ Summer _____

Instructions for the provider:

This form must be completed by a qualified mental health care professional.

Your name, signature, title, and credentials must be provided on this form. [Please note: Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code makes it a criminal offense to willfully falsify a material fact or make a false statement in any matter within the jurisdiction of a federal agency]. Please answer the questions as thoroughly as possible.

Provider Information

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

License or Certification Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please provide answers to the following questions, keeping in mind that Federal laws define a person with a disability as, "any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment."

Does the student listed above have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities including, but not limited to: caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working?

☐ Yes ☐ No

1. Diagnosis: (DSM-V) _____

Severity level (indicate for each diagnosis if more than one) _____

Date of diagnosis: _____

Date first seen: _____

Number of visits: _____

1. Please summarize relevant history and/or observations (i.e., how is the student substantially limited in the housing environment by this diagnosis).

2. Does this student require ongoing treatment? Please explain.

3. Is the proposed Assistance Animal (ESA) specifically **prescribed** by you as part of treatment?

4. Is the proposed Assistance Animal (ESA) a pet that you believe will have a beneficial effect for the student while residing in EU housing?

5. What disability symptoms will be reduced by the student having the Assistance Animal (ESA) in their campus housing with them?

6. What evidence exists that the proposed Assistance Animal (ESA) has helped reduce the impact of the student's disability in the living environment (currently or in the past)?

7. In your professional opinion, is the Assistance Animal (ESA) for the student to alleviate one or more of the identified symptoms or the effects of the student's existing disability? What would the impact(s) be, in terms of disability symptoms, that may result if the Assistance Animal (ESA) is **not** allowed?

8. Is there a different/another accommodation that could be provided in the living environment to meet this student's needs? If so, please describe below.

9. Assistance Animals will be confined to the student's room and not permitted in any of the common areas of campus. Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in University housing? Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student's symptoms in any way?

(and if so, how)? Note: When an Assistance Animal (ESA) is approved in University housing, the student will be expected to be able to care for, control, feed and clean up after the animal and will not be permitted to rely on other students or staff for any of the animal's needs at any time.

10. Is the Assistance Animal (ESA) necessary in order for the above named student to have the same opportunity that a student without a disability has to use and enjoy the residence?

11. Is there any additional information that you would like to share?

Return this form to:

Pamela Smallwood

Housing Office

Evangel University

1111 N Glenstone Ave

Springfield MO 65802

FAX: 417-965-9599

Email: smallwoodp@evangel.edu

OR:

Stephen Houseknecht

Student Support Services

Evangel University

1111 N Glenstone Ave

Springfield MO 65802
Email: houseknechts@evangel.edu