5 Things You Should Know About
Service and Guide Dogs in Public Facilities

1 **The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (LAD) entitles any person with a disability who uses a service or guide dog to the full and equal enjoyment of all public facilities.** Public facilities include not only places of public accommodation like restaurants, schools, hotels, and hospitals, but also spaces open to the general public like beaches, parks, streets, sidewalks, and public buildings.

2 **A service dog is any dog individually trained to meet the needs of a person with a disability,** including but not limited to protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, and assisting persons with epilepsy or other seizure disorders. A guide dog is trained to assist persons who are deaf or blind.

3 **Under the LAD, a person with a disability is entitled to bring their service or guide dog to all public facilities as long as the dog has been trained by a recognized training agency.** The public facility may not require the individual to produce certification of training to gain admittance. If the dog has been trained but not by a recognized training agency (for example, if the dog has been trained by the owner), the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rather than the LAD will apply, and the public facility may ask the individual whether the dog is needed for a disability, as well as what task the dog is trained to perform.

4 **The public facility may not charge a person with a disability an extra fee for their service or guide dog,** although the person may be required to pay for any damage done to the premises by the dog. Additionally, the individual must keep the service or guide dog in their immediate custody at all times.

5 **A public facility may not retaliate against you** for reporting a violation of the LAD or attempting to exercise these or any other rights under the LAD.

To find out more or to file a complaint, go to **NJCivilRights.gov** or call **1.833.NJDCR4U**

NJ Office of the Attorney General
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