



## REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS AND ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

**Equal Housing Opportunity Policy.** We provide rental housing on an equal opportunity basis. Consistent with this policy, we welcome persons with disabilities to our community and will not discriminate against any person because of his or her disability, or his or her association with anyone with a disability. In addition, we know that it may be sometimes necessary for persons with disabilities to be able to make modifications to their surroundings or to have accommodations made in our practices and procedures to enable them to fully enjoy and use their housing, and we have created the policy described herein to meet that need.

**Purpose of Policy.** Federal Fair Housing laws allow for a reasonable accommodation and/or reasonable modification when needed because of a disability of the resident, the applicant, and/or a person associated with a resident or applicant, such as a member of the household or frequent guest. The reasonable accommodation and/or reasonable modification must be necessary for the individual with the disability to have an equal opportunity to fully use and/or enjoy housing services offered to other residents and/or the individual dwelling unit. We will grant requests for accommodations or modifications that are reasonable and necessary because of a disability, would not impose an undue financial or administrative burden on our operations, and do not fundamentally alter the nature of services or resources we provide as part of our housing program.

### **Definitions.**

**Disability.** The Federal Fair Housing Act defines a person with a disability to include: (1) individuals with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) individuals who are regarded as having such an impairment; or (3) individuals with a record of such an impairment.

**Reasonable Modifications.** A reasonable modification is a structural change made to existing premises, occupied or to be occupied, by a person with a disability, in order to afford such person full enjoyment of the premises. These are typically structural changes to interiors and exteriors of dwellings and to common and public use areas, which are necessary to accommodate a person with a disability. Depending on the nature of the request, reasonable modifications are typically granted at the expense of the person requesting them.

**Reasonable Accommodation.** A reasonable accommodation is a change, exception, or adjustment to a rule, policy, practice, or service that may be necessary for a person with a disability to have an equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling, including public and common areas.

## **Request for Reasonable Modifications.**

**Generally.** If you are a resident or an applicant (i) with a disability, or (ii) with someone associated with you who has a disability, you have the right to request a reasonable modification to your dwelling or the common areas, in accordance with fair housing laws, if such modifications may be necessary to allow you to have an equal opportunity.

**Reasonable Modification Expenses.** Expenses for reasonable modifications, and restoration expenses, if applicable, of such modifications, shall be allocated in accordance with state and federal fair housing laws.

**Permission Required, Evaluation of Disability.** If you would like to request a reasonable modification to your dwelling or the common areas of the community that is necessary because of a disability, you must first obtain permission from us. Whether you use a templated form or your own form of request, we will need to know what specific modification is being sought. In addition, if the disability or the disability-related need for the modification is not obvious, we may ask for information that is reasonably necessary to evaluate the disability-related need for the modification; however, we will only request information necessary to evaluate your request, and all information will be kept confidential.

**Reasonable Assurances.** Depending on the modification requested, we may require you to provide reasonable assurances that the modification will be done in a workmanlike manner and that any required building permits will be obtained. In some cases, any third-party retained to perform the modification may also have to be approved in writing by us and be properly licensed and insured. During and upon completion of the modification, we may inspect the work in connection with our overall property management responsibilities. We will not increase your security deposit as a result of a modification request. However, when applicable, if you fail to restore the interior of the dwelling to its original condition, excluding normal wear and tear, at the end of the tenancy, we may assess the cost of restoration against your security deposit and/or final account upon move-out.

**Restoration Reimbursement.** At the end of your tenancy, you may be responsible to restore the interior of your dwelling to its pre-modification condition at your expense, depending on the nature of the modification. Again, depending on the modification, we may request that you deposit sufficient funds for that restoration in an interest-bearing escrow account to ensure any required restoration can be completed. Regardless of modification, you will remain responsible to pay for damage to your dwelling in excess of ordinary wear and tear. If an apartment building does not qualify for animals given the historic nature of apartments in historic building, we are happy to accommodate resident at our animal-friendly designated buildings and apartments. This may require being placed on a waiting list. Please note that while oversized service animals may be approved if accommodations are given by insurance carriers; this does not relinquish any responsibility of the resident for the expense of damage caused by animal.

**Alternative Modification.** Depending on the circumstances, we may not be able to grant the exact modification you have requested and we may ask to discuss other alternatives with you.

**Owner Responsibility.** We will respond to all requests for a reasonable accommodation and/or modification in a timely manner. If we deny your request for a reasonable modification and/or accommodation, we will explain the reason for our denial and we will discuss with you whether there are alternative accommodations and/or modifications that we could provide that would meet your needs. We also are committed to entering into an interactive dialogue with you in relation to any request, and therefore agree to speak with you in relation to any request so that you have sufficient opportunity to provide us with any information you believe is relevant to our evaluation of your request for the modification(s) and/or accommodation(s).

**Amendment to Policy.** This policy may be amended and updated at any time upon written notice to you. In addition, in the event of any conflict between this policy and/or state, local or federal law, the provisions of such law shall control.

If you have any questions about this policy, you should contact: **Jill Judy** at **501-247-3834**.

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Lessor - **Jill Judy, Landlord**

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