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All Missouri Hospitals Should Have a Section 504 Coordinator

Public and private health care entities (with 15 or more employees) that receive federal funding must designate a staff member to coordinate compliance with the disability nondiscrimination provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

[Code of Federal Regulations](#)

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973

45 CFR 84.1. § 84.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this part is to effectuate section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which is designed to eliminate discrimination on the basis of handicap in any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

45 CFR 84.3(f). **Recipient** means any state or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a state or its political subdivision, any public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which Federal financial assistance is extended directly or through another recipient, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but excluding the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance.

45 CFR 84.7. **Designation of responsible employee and adoption of grievance procedures.**

(a) Designation of **responsible employee.** A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall designate at least one person to coordinate its efforts to comply with this part. (b) Adoption of **grievance procedures.** A recipient that employs fifteen or more persons shall adopt grievance procedures that incorporate appropriate due process standards and that provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints.

Current Duties of Hospitals

- ✓ Designate an employee to serve as a Section 504/ACA coordinator.
- ✓ Train them on the rights of patients with developmental disabilities.
- ✓ Have a grievance procedure to resolve complaints on patient rights.

A NEW FEDERAL RULE ON PATIENT RIGHTS IS COMING SOON

HHS announced on March 20, 2024, that a [proposed rule](#) enforcing the prohibitions of Section 504 against disability discrimination by health care providers will be made final this Spring. To receive a copy of the new rule when it is finalized and an analysis of how it applies to adult patients with developmental disabilities, send an email to tomcoleman@spectruminstitute.org

More on the Rights of Patients with Developmental Disabilities:

<https://alternativestoguardianship.com/medical-rights.htm>

This flier is found online at: <https://alternativestoguardianship.com/504-coordinator.pdf>