

Emotional Support Animal Documentation Form

Student Name: _____ Student DOB: _____

Capital University recognizes that having an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in the residence hall can be a real benefit for someone with a significant mental health disorder, but the practical limitations of our housing arrangements make it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an ESA on both the student and the campus community.

The above-named student has indicated that you are the health care provider who has suggested that having an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) in the residence hall will have therapeutic benefit in alleviating one or more of the identified symptoms or effects of the student's mental health disability. Generally, we prefer documentation from providers in the State of Ohio or the student's home state who have personal knowledge of the student, consistent with their professional obligations. Letters purchased from the internet for a set price rarely provide the information necessary to support an ESA request.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has been asked to investigate websites that purport to provide documentation from a health care provider in support of requests for an ESA. The websites in question offer for sale documentation that is not reliable for purposes of determining whether an individual has a disability or disability-related need for an ESA because the website operators and health care professionals who consult with them lack the personal knowledge that is necessary to make such determinations.

The health care provider need not use this specific form, but all the information requested here is necessary for the institution to have in order to consider the request for an ESA; the form is provided as a convenience.

So that we may better evaluate the request for this accommodation, please answer the following questions:

Information About the Student's Disability

1. Federal law defines a person with a disability as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that **substantially limits** one or more major life activities. That suggests that a diagnosis (label) does not necessarily equate with a disability (substantial limitation). What is the nature of the student's mental health impairment (that is, how is the student substantially limited?)
2. Does the student require ongoing treatment?
3. When did you first meet with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis, and in what context (that is, was it a face-to-face meeting or a virtual interaction)?
4. When did you last interact with the student regarding this mental health diagnosis?

Information About the Proposed ESA

(Please note that there are some restrictions on the kind of animal that can be approved for the residence hall; it is possible the student may be approved for an ESA, based on the information you provide here, but may not be allowed to bring the specific animal named.)

5. What is the proposed ESA (if identified)?
6. Is the animal named here one that you specifically prescribed as part of treatment for the student, or is it a pet that you believe will have a beneficial effect for the student while in residence on campus?
7. What specific symptoms will be reduced by having an ESA, and how will those symptoms be mitigated by the presence of the ESA?

8. Is there evidence that an ESA has helped this student in the past or currently?

Importance of ESA to Student’s Well-Being

9. In your opinion, how important is it for the student’s well-being that an ESA be in residence on campus? What consequences, in terms of disability symptomology, may result if the accommodation is not approved?

10. This student was provided with a copy of the rules and restrictions surrounding the presence of an animal in residence in the University housing. Has the student shared those restrictions with you? Yes/No

11. Have you discussed the responsibilities associated with properly caring for an animal while engaged in typical college activities and residing in campus housing? Do you believe those responsibilities might exacerbate the student’s symptoms in any way? (If you have not had this conversation with the student, we will discuss with the student at a later date.)

Health Care Providers: please complete the contact information, sign, and date this questionnaire (below), and return it to Capital University Accessibility Services: email: accessibilityservices@capital.edu or fax: 614-236-6971

Health Care Provider’s Contact information:

Provider’s Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

FAX number and/or Email address: _____

Type of License: _____ License #: _____

Professional Signature: _____

Date: _____

STUDENT (please sign this form before providing it to your mental health provider to complete):

By signing below, I consent to allowing my health care provider to share any information relevant to my need for an ESA as an accommodation, as shown on this form, with personnel from the Accessibility Services office at Capital University for the next 60 days.

Signature

Date