

**TIPS FOR MEDICAL PROVIDERS:  
REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS  
ON BEHALF OF PATIENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR MEDICAL ISSUES IN NEW YORK CITY**

A wide range of city, state, and federal laws protect people with disabilities and medical issues from discrimination. These laws require landlords to make changes to their buildings or their programs, policies, and procedures in order to accommodate tenants with disabilities or medical issues.

As a medical provider to a tenant with a disability, you play a critical role in ensuring that your patient receives the benefits that these anti-discrimination laws provide. By writing a letter that explains your patient's diagnosis and medical needs, you can help safeguard your patient's right to accessible, safe housing. The following tips will help you write such a letter:

1. Provide context for your treatment of the patient.
  - How long have you treated the patient?
  - How often do you see the patient?
2. **Explain your patient's diagnosis and** symptoms.
  - Use simple language and avoid medical jargon—the person reading your letter may not be a medical professional
  - Explain your patient's symptoms affected by the barrier your patient is asking to be changed
  - Provide specific examples of how these symptoms impact your patient's life (e.g. difficulty walking or climbing stairs)
3. Explain the impact of this barrier **on your patient's** disability or medical issue.
  - Describe how the barrier has exacerbated your patient's symptoms
  - Explain how the barrier might impact your client's disability or medical issue in the future
  - If you think the barrier is dangerous to your patient based on his or her diagnosis, say so!
4. **Explain your patient's need for an accessible** living environment
  - If you believe that it is medically necessary for your client to be granted the accommodations they are seeking, say so!

**This fact sheet provides general information only. It does not constitute legal advice.**