

*D.C. Code § 7-1001 (2007)*

§ 7-1001. Equal access to public places [Formerly § 6-1701]

The blind and other persons with physical disabilities have the same right as the able-bodied to the full and free use of the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, and other public places in the District of Columbia.

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*D.C. Code § 7-1002*

§ 7-1002. Equal access to public accommodations and conveyances [Formerly § 6-1702]

(a) The blind and other persons with physical disabilities are entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges of all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motor buses, streetcars, boats, or any other public conveyances or modes of transportation in the District of Columbia, hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited in the District of Columbia, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law or in accordance with law applicable alike to all persons.

(b) Every blind person or deaf person shall have the right to be accompanied by a dog guide, in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in subsection (a) of this section, without being denied access because of the dog guide and required to pay an extra charge for the dog guide; but any blind person or deaf person so accompanied shall be liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by such dog.

*D.C. Code § 7-1004 (2007)*

§ 7-1004. Safety standards for drivers of motor vehicles [Formerly § 6-1704]

The driver of a vehicle in the District of Columbia approaching a blind pedestrian who is carrying a cane predominantly white or metallic in color (with or without a red tip) or a deaf pedestrian, either of whom is using a dog guide shall take all necessary precautions to avoid injury to such blind or deaf pedestrian, and any driver who fails to take such precautions shall be liable in damages for any injury caused such pedestrian. A blind pedestrian in the District of Columbia not carrying such a cane or a deaf pedestrian, either of whom is not using a dog guide in any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in §§ 7-1001 and 7-1002 shall have all of the rights and privileges conferred by law on other persons, and the failure of such a blind pedestrian to carry such a cane or the failure of a blind or deaf pedestrian to use a dog guide in any such places, accommodations, or conveyances shall not be held to constitute nor be evidence of contributory negligence.

*D.C. Code § 7-1005 (2007)*

§ 7-1005. Discrimination in employment prohibited [Formerly § 6-1705]

The blind and other persons with physical disabilities shall be employed by: (1) every individual, partnership, firm, association, or corporation, or the receiver, trustee, or successor thereof (exclusive of the government of the United States or any agency thereof), doing business, and employing any individual for the purpose of such business, in the District of Columbia; and (2) the government of the District of Columbia, the Board of Education of the District of Columbia, the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, the Board of Higher Education of the District of Columbia, and the Executive Officer of the District of Columbia courts, and all other employers supported in whole or in part by appropriations for the District of Columbia, on the same terms and conditions as the able-bodied, unless it is shown that the particular disability prevents the performance of the work involved.

*D.C. Code § 7-1006 (2007)*

§ 7-1006. Equal access to housing [Formerly § 6-1706]

(a) Blind persons and other persons with physical disabilities shall be entitled to full and equal access, as other members of the general public, to all housing accommodations offered for rent, lease, or compensation in the District of Columbia, subject to the conditions and limitations established by law or in accordance with law and applicable alike to all persons.

(b) Every blind or deaf person who has a dog guide, or who obtains a dog guide, shall be entitled to full and equal access to all housing accommodations referred to in this section, without being denied access because of the dog guide and required to pay an extra charge for the dog guide; but such blind or deaf person shall be liable for any damage done to the premises by such dog.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require any person renting, leasing, or providing real property for compensation in the District of Columbia to modify his property in any way or to provide a higher degree of care for a blind person or person with another physical disability than for a person who does not have a physical disability.

*D.C. Code § 7-1007 (2007)*

§ 7-1007. Penalties [Formerly § 6-1707]

Any person or the agent of any person in the District of Columbia who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of any of the places, accommodations, or conveyances listed in §§ 7-1001 and 7-1002 or otherwise interferes with the rights of a blind person or person with another physical disability under § 7-1001, § 7-1002, § 7-1005, or § 7-1006 shall be imprisoned for not longer than 90 days, or fined not more than \$ 300, or both.

*D.C. Code § 7-1008 (2007)*

§ 7-1008. White Cane Safety Day [Formerly § 6-1708]

Each year, the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall take suitable public notice of October 15th as White Cane Safety Day. He shall issue a proclamation commenting upon the significance of the white cane, and calling upon the citizens of the District of Columbia to observe the provisions of this chapter, to be aware of the presence of persons with disabilities in the community, to keep safe and functional for persons with disabilities the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings, public facilities, other public places, places of public accommodation, amusement, and resort, and other places to which the public is invited, and to offer assistance to persons with disabilities upon appropriate occasions.

*D.C. Code § 7-1009 (2007)*

§ 7-1009. Definitions [Formerly § 6-1709]

For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) The term "blind person" means, and the term "blind" refers to, a person who is totally blind, has impaired vision of not more than 20/200 visual acuity in the better eye and for whom vision cannot be improved to better than 20/200, or who has loss of vision due wholly or in part to impairment of field vision or to other factors which affect the usefulness of vision to a like degree.

(2) The term "deaf person" means a person who is totally deaf or a person with hearing impairment that severely interferes with his or her ability to hear environmental noises.

(3) The term "guide dog" means a dog that is specially trained to assist a blind or deaf person and one which a blind or deaf person relies on for assistance.

(4) The term "person with a physical disability" refers to an individual who has a medically determinable physical impairment (other than blindness) which interferes with his ability to move about, to assist himself, or to engage in an occupation.