



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

22DRS-11-
204-53-0

2NY600

*Disability Rights Section – 4CON
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530*

January 24, 2021

Edward Schneider
9575 Redwing Street
Angola, NY 14006

Dear Edward Schneider:

The Disability Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has received your correspondence alleging violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12134 and 12181-12189, and the Department of Justice's implementing regulation, 28 C.F.R. Pts. 35 and 36, which prohibit public entities, owners and operators of public accommodations, and commercial facilities from discriminating on the basis of disability.

We are offering you an opportunity to resolve your complaint through informal means. The Department of Justice sponsors a mediation program designed to allow parties to resolve their ADA disputes quickly and satisfactorily. We have determined that your complaint is an appropriate candidate for referral to this service. We are enclosing information about the ADA Mediation Program for your review. Additional information about the ADA, including the regulations and other technical assistance materials, is available at www.ADA.gov.

Through this informal mediation process, an impartial third party assists disputing parties to develop mutually satisfactory solutions to their differences. Mediation typically involves one or more meetings between the disputing parties and the mediator (either in-person or on-line). It may also involve one or more confidential sessions between one party and the mediator. A successful mediation results in a binding agreement between the parties. Mediation proceedings are confidential.

The role of a mediator is not to act as an advocate or judge, but, rather, to help the parties reach a mutual agreement. Mediation is informal, and representation by an attorney, while permitted, is not required. The mediators participating in this program have been trained in the legal requirements of the ADA. In addition, the mediators have access to neutral experts from the local disability rights community.

Mediation through this program is free and is available in your community through the Key Bridge Foundation. If you have questions about this service, you may call Lewis Dabney toll free at (888) 528-1609 (V) or (800) 630-1051 (TDD).

Participation in the service is voluntary, both for you (the complainant) and for the entity accused of violating the ADA (the respondent). If you would like us to refer your complaint to this mediation service, please carefully review and sign the enclosed Release for Referral to Mediation form and return it in a reply email within thirty (30) days of receipt.

Your return of the signed form will allow us to release your name, address, and telephone number, and other information provided to us in your complaint to the mediation service and will allow the mediation service to release that information to the respondent. Such disclosure is necessary to facilitate open communication between you and the respondent during the mediation meetings. The respondent may not use this information to retaliate against you for filing this complaint. After we receive your signed release form, we will notify the mediation service and they will contact you.

In addition, upon receipt of the signed Release, we will notify the respondent of your complaint and recommend that the respondent enter into mediation. We will explain to the respondent that the Department of Justice will suspend any action pending resolution of the mediation and that participation in mediation will allow the respondent to complete this matter without further involvement of the Federal government.

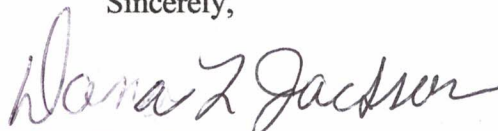
If we do not receive the signed release within thirty (30) days of receipt, we will assume you do not wish to participate in the mediation program.

If you decline to participate in mediation, or if the respondent declines to participate, or if mediation is unsuccessful, our file on your complaint may be closed and no further action taken.

When returning your signed release form, you have two options. Option 1: Please sign, date, and scan the attached PDF mediation release form. Option 2: If you are unable to scan the form, please type your name and date into the text box on the word document and check the box consenting to your electronic signature. For either option, please email the word or PDF document back to us as a reply to our email enclosing this release.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to resolve your ADA complaint.

Sincerely,



Mr. Dana L. Jackson
ADA Mediation Program Officer
Disability Rights Section

Enclosures