



Two locations serving the communities of Granite City, Mitchell, and Pontoon Beach.

2001 Delmar Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040
618-452-6238

2145 Johnson Road
Granite City, IL 62040
618-452-6238

SIX MILE REGIONAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

Patrons with Disabilities Policy

The Six Mile Regional Library District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (the "ADA") and offers alternative reasonable compliance to meet its requirements. Accordingly, the Library will take appropriate steps to ensure that Library communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with ADA disabilities are as effective as communications with others; make reasonable accommodations in Library policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to avoid discrimination based on disability unless a fundamental alteration in a Library program would result; and operate its services, programs, and activities so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

The Library Director is the library's ADA Compliance Officer. Implementing this Policy is the responsibility of all library staff.

Method of Notification

A copy of this Policy shall be included with the Library's other policies. Notices of the availability of the Library's ADA services and of this Policy shall also be displayed at the circulation desk.

If a person with visual impairment or other disability inquires about this Policy or about the Library's ADA services, staff shall offer to read the policy and to provide appropriate ADA services.

Programming

All notices and advertising for Library-sponsored programming shall contain an appropriate ADA notice (such as the following):

Any person needing an accommodation for a disability to access the benefits of the Library's services, programs, or activities under the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the programming staff. Any person needing accommodation for a disability to attend a meeting at the Library should contact the Six Mile Regional Library District by telephone at 618-452-6238 or in writing, not less than five (5) working days before the meeting.

Accommodations to Persons with a Disability

In accordance with Title II of the ADA and Sections 5 and 6 of the Illinois Human Rights Act, upon request, the Library will make reasonable accommodations for the known disabilities of any applicant, employee, or patron to ensure that such individuals have access to the same Library activities, services, or programs as individuals without disabilities, unless the accommodation poses an undue burden, unless a fundamental alteration in Library goods and services would result, or unless doing so would compromise the health and safety of members of the Library community. The Library will take appropriate steps to ensure that Library communications with applicants, employees, and patrons with disabilities are reasonably as effective as communication with others, and will make reasonable accommodations in Library policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to avoid discrimination.

Forms for requesting ADA assistance and for expressing concerns under the ADA are available at the circulation service desk. All Library staff is available to provide ADA assistance and to assist a patron in filling out the forms if needed.

Staff will assist a patron with a disability in any reasonable way needed, including opening doors, carrying/retrieving library materials, completing library forms, etc.

Despite the Library's best efforts, not all library materials may be available in accessible formats, not all areas of the Library are available to individuals with disabilities, and not every Library program, service, and activity can be made accessible to every disabled person without fundamentally altering the nature of the service, activity, or program. However, the Library does make every reasonable effort to assist individuals with disabilities upon request.

1. For the visually impaired, the Library attempts to select materials that are available in large print or audio format. Staff is available to assist such patrons with the computerized catalog.
2. For the audibly impaired the Library attempts to select materials which, while normally available in electronic format, are also available in print. The Library selects, when available, DVDs that are closed-captioned. The Library accepts phone calls through a hearing-assist operator.
3. For the mobility impaired, the staff reaches and retrieves any and all materials that are inaccessible to wheelchair users or others with mobility impairments. Clear, readable signage indicates access routes. Staff will not touch or move wheelchairs without permission from the patron. If requested, staff holds doors open for wheelchair users.
4. For the mentally impaired, the Library attempts to select materials that are understood at appropriate levels of comprehension. DVDs, CDs, and audio formats are offered for those with reading difficulties. Youth-oriented materials are available in the same formats.
5. For the manually impaired, the Library attempts to select formats other than print, such as DVDs, CDs, and audio formats. Staff is available to retrieve any material which may not be accessible to patrons. Staff is also available to assist with the computerized catalog.
6. For library patrons who are verbally disabled, staff is available to communicate via writing.

Service Animals

The Library will provide reasonable equal access to persons with disabilities including individuals who utilize service animals as defined by the ADA, and as required by the Service Animals Access Act (720 ILCS 5/48-8) and the White Cane Law (775 ILCS 30/1 et. Seq.) ("Service Animals"). Service Animals are permitted in any area of the Library where members of the public are permitted to go and may not be segregated or excluded from such areas. Trainers are also permitted to accompany Service Animals in training in the Library. The work or task that the Service Animal has been trained to provide must be related to the person's disability. Service Animals may wear special collars, harnesses, vests, or capes and some are licensed and certified and have identification papers. However, special identification and certification are not required by applicable law. According to the ADA, a Service Animal can be either a dog or a miniature horse.

The Library may only ask an individual who accesses the Library with a Service Animal the following questions: 1) whether the animal is a Service Animal, and 2) what work or task the Service Animal has been trained to perform. The Library may not require identification for the Service Animal and may not ask about the individual's disability.

A Service Animal may not be removed from the premises unless the presence of the Service Animal:

1. Fundamentally alters the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations of the Library or
2. The Service Animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. This shall include, but may not be limited to the following circumstances:
 - a. The Service Animal is unreasonably disturbing the peace and the handler does not take effective action to control the Service Animal. Unreasonably disturbing the peace shall include for

illustrative example but not be limited to making unreasonable levels of noise, such as barking, or approaching employees or patrons in unwanted ways, such as in a manner of aggression or attack.

- b. The Service Animal attacks a person or another Service Animal
- c. The Service Animal is not housebroken, or
- d. The Service Animal is infested with vermin or parasites.

When there is a legitimate reason to remove a Service Animal, Library staff will offer the individual with the disability the opportunity to obtain Library materials or services without the Service Animal's presence.

The handler of the Service Animal is solely responsible for the Service Animal's care and supervision. The Library is not required to provide care, food, or a special location for the Service Animal in any circumstance. The Library may contact appropriate authorities in the event of reasonable concern of the welfare of a Service Animal.

Mobility Devices

The Library conforms with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and wishes to improve access for people with mobility disabilities by allowing the use of other power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD) in areas where they can be operated safely, without posing a substantial risk of serious harm or fundamentally altering the nature of our services, programs, or activities.

Wheelchairs are defined as "a manually operated or power-driven device designed primarily for use by an individual with a mobility disability for the main purpose of indoor or both indoor and outdoor locomotion." Manually powered devices include mobility aids such as walkers, crutches, canes, braces, and other similar devices.

Wheelchairs and manually powered mobility aids are permitted into all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.

OPDMDs are any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines – whether or not designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility disabilities – that is used by individuals with mobility disabilities for the purpose of locomotion, but that is not a wheelchair.

It is the policy of SMRLD to make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, in any areas open to pedestrian use.

Exceptions: SMRLD has determined that certain classes of power-driven mobility devices cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements in certain areas as follows:

- Gasoline-powered OPDMDs are not permitted inside buildings and/or enclosed spaces.
- OPDMDs will not be allowed on delicate natural areas where pedestrian or vehicular traffic is restricted.
- Those using golf carts as other power-driven mobility devices shall comply with the requirements of 625 ILCS 3/11-1426.1. This requirement includes possession of a valid Illinois driver's license and compliance with the statutory requirements of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

In determining whether a particular other power-driven mobility device may be allowed as a reasonable modification SMRLD may consider the following factors:

1. The type, size, weight, dimensions, and speed of the device;
2. The facility's volume of pedestrian traffic, which may vary at different times of the day, week, month, or year;
3. The facility's design and operational characteristics for example, whether its service, program, or activity is conducted indoors; its square footage; the density and placement of stationary devices; and the availability of storage for the device, if requested by the user;

4. Whether legitimate safety requirements can be established to permit the safe operation of the OPDMD in the specific facility, and
5. Whether the use of the OPDMD creates a substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or natural or cultural resources or poses a conflict with Federal land management laws and regulations.

Even after all of these factors have been considered, it's important to note that each situation is unique and the final decision on what devices are allowed will always be made on a case-by-case basis.

What questions may be asked

Entities may not ask an individual using a wheelchair or OPDMD about the nature or extent of his or her disability. They may, however, ask a person using an OPDMD to provide a credible assurance that the mobility device is required because of a mobility disability, by either:

- Showing a valid, state-issued, disability parking placard or card or other state-issued proof of a disability, or
- Verbally providing credible assurance that the OPDMD is being used by a person with a mobility disability (as long as the statement does not contradict observable fact).

Rules for people with disabilities using OPDMDs

- The user is required to operate the device at the speed of pedestrian traffic and only in locations where public pedestrian traffic is allowed.
- Storage is not available for devices not in use.

Meeting Room Users

Groups using the meeting room and presenters are required to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Library offers the facility as a service to Community groups, but has no responsibility for the groups using the room.

Grievance Procedure

Persons who believe they have been discriminated against based on their disability should file a statement of concern with the Library Director. An ADA statement of concern should be submitted to the Library Director in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination, including the name, address, and telephone number of the individual filing the claim, and also the location, date, and description of the problem. The ADA statement of concern should be submitted to the Library Director as soon as possible, but not later than 60 calendar days after the alleged ADA violation.

ADA concerns will be brought to the attention of the Library Board before its next regular meeting following receipt of a completed statement of concern form.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the concern, the Library Director or designee will meet with the individual to discuss the concern and possible resolutions; and within 15 days after such meeting, the Library Director or designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the individual, such as large print, Braille, or audio format. The response will explain the position of the Library and offer options for possible resolution of the concern.

If the response of the Library Director or designee does not satisfactorily resolve the concern, the individual may appeal the decision to the Board of Library Trustees within 15 calendar days after the individual's receipt of the response. Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Library Trustees and the Library Director or designee will meet with the individual to discuss the concern and possible resolutions, and within 15 days after the meeting will respond in writing (and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant), with a possible final resolution of the problem.

Individuals may also file an administrative complaint with the U.S. Equal Opportunities Commission (EEOC) within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination, or may file a lawsuit for injunctive relief and damages.

Any or all of these methods may be pursued at the same time.

Individuals are protected from retaliation or coercion when pursuing their rights or responsibilities under the ADA.

For further information

In accordance with Section 35.106 of the ADA's Title II Regulations, all applicants, participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons are advised that further information may be obtained from the Library Director and also from the Office on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20035-6118. Telephone: (202) 514-0301 (Voice) or (202) 514-0381 (TDD).

Adopted by Board Action
January 14, 2025