

Town of Watertown

Reasonable Accommodation Questionnaire

To be submitted to the Zoning Office located at 149 Main Street, Watertown MA
(P) 617.972.6427 – (F) 617.926.7778

Policy:

It is the policy of the Town of Watertown to provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities seeking fair access to housing in the application of its zoning laws, policies, and processes. A person with disabilities is someone who has a “physical” or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s major life activities.” Laws, which protect persons with disabilities against discrimination, include within their protection, persons who are recovering from addictions to alcohol or narcotics so long as they are not currently using the substances.

Process:

If no other relief is required, you may submit a request for Reasonable Accommodation directly to the Zoning Office located at 149 Main Street, 2nd Floor. If relief by the Special Permit Granting Authority is also required, then the request for Reasonable Accommodation should be submitted concurrently with the relief requested (e.g., Special Permit). When submitted concurrently, the procedure will be the same as for the relief requested and you should refer to the standardized permit application for the appropriate procedures.

Grounds for Reasonable Accommodation:

In making a determination regarding the reasonableness of a requested accommodation, the following factors shall be considered:

- Special needs created by the disability;
- Potential benefit that can be accomplished by the requested modification;
- Physical attributes of the property and structures;
- Alternative accommodations which may provide an equivalent level of benefit;
- In the case of a determination involving a single family dwelling, whether the household would be considered a single housekeeping unit if it were not using special services that are required because of the disabilities of the residents;
- Whether the requested accommodation would impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the Town;
- Whether the requested accommodation would require a fundamental alteration in the nature of a program.

Request For Accommodation:

1. Specify any requested accommodations to a code, policy or practice of the Town of Watertown. Please cite the applicable code provisions and the accommodation requested from the provision.

2. What is the basis for the claim that the person or persons on behalf of which this application is being made is considered Disabled under the Fair Housing Act?

3. Why is the accommodation necessary to make specific housing available to those persons?

Please provide information regarding each of the following criteria:

4. Special needs created by the disability.

5. Potential benefit that can be accomplished by the requested modification.

6. Concise physical description of the property. Please attach floor plan and site plan (needs to be to scale and have dimensions on the site plan and indicate parking).

7. Alternative accommodations which may provide an equivalent level of benefit.