


Megan Andrea Morgan
849 Almar Avenue, Suite C-242
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



June 17, 2012

Monica Martinez
Executive Director
Homeless Services Center
115 Coral Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060


TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL AND FACSIMILE TO: 831.316.5010

re: ADA/FHA/Section 504 disability accommodation request for place to rest

Dear Ms. Martinez:

I am writing to make an immediate disability accommodation request under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 (of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA). In order to allow me to benefit equally as a disabled person from the Homeless Services Center (HSC) campus's programs, activities and services and to enjoy equal access to the same, as well as being able to participate fully in the programs offered by the HSC and the other providers on the HSC campus, I request this ADA/FHA/Section 504 disability accommodation.

Specifically, I ask you to provide me with access to a bed or couch during the daytime when the shelters and other housing located on the HSC campus are closed so that I can safely rest lying down. I ask that I be given access to a bed or couch during the daytime hours when the HSC campus shelters and housing are closed, for me to safely rest upon.

Because of my  disabilities — I suffer with constant extreme fatigue, pain and depression which cause me extreme discomfort and physical/emotional distress during the daytime when the shelters and housing on the HSC campus are closed to me. When I am so fatigued and depressed, especially while the weather is warm like it is now, I get so depressed and frustrated that I feel like I cannot live anymore — I feel unable to participate in the programs and activities the HSC and its tenants offer. I feel that I will have to find some other housing to live in to survive. I cannot find a place outside the HSC campus to safely lie down and rest in a horizontal position. This puts me in an untenable, extremely painful situation: I need immediate relief.

I am unable to fully function during the daytime without this safe horizontal rest because of my chronic fatigue, depression and painful medical conditions. I require more rest in a safe horizontal position than the HSC campus shelters and housing currently provide me under their present policies and procedures.

The ADA, FHA and Section 504 require that reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures be made when they are necessary to afford services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to disabled individuals unless the HSC can demonstrate that making these modification would fundamentally alter the nature of its services, facilities, privileges, or advantages. What I am asking for is completely reasonable. Disabled individuals who require more safe rest because of their medical conditions than the HSC shelters and housing presently provide should have access to some kind of safe rest area because these types of facilities are not available outside the HSC campus for homeless individuals.

For example, I cannot rest horizontally in businesses nor in public facilities like the Santa Cruz Main Library. It is not safe for me — a lone woman using a walker — to rest horizontally in parks. There is nowhere outside the HSC campus for me to safely rest horizontally during the daytime. If I cannot find a place to safely rest horizontally during the daytime, I may not be able to use the HSC campus, or I will experience extreme physical and emotional suffering while doing so.

The Homeless Services Center should have documentation of my disabilities. If you require any more information or documentation from me please contact me in writing at the postal address or fax number listed above.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this immediate ADA/FHA/Section 504 accommodation request. Please respond in writing to the postal address or fax number listed above. Thank you for considering my legal rights under the ADA, FHA and Section 504 in a timely fashion.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan A. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Megan Andrea Morgan