



NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Hendry County will not discriminate against individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: Hendry County does not discriminate against qualified individuals on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: Hendry County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in County programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: Hendry County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in County offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Hendry County, should contact the office of *Audelia Bustamante, Hendry County Human Resources Manager* at 863-675-5352, Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Hendry County will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

The ADA does not require Hendry County to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Hendry County is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to *Audelia Bustamante, Human Resources Manager* at 863-675-5352, Hearing Impaired: Florida Relay 7-1-1.

Hendry County Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by Hendry County. The County's Human Resources Policy Manual governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Audelia Bustamante
Human Resources Manager and ADA Coordinator
P.O. Box 2340, LaBelle, FL 33975

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of Hendry County and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator or her designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the County Administrator or her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the County Administrator or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the County Administrator or her designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or her designee, appeals to the County Administrator or her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by Hendry County for at least three years.