



**DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES**

*Carol Beatty, Secretary*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*Robert R. Neall, Secretary*

## **NOTICE – SUPPORT PERSONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES (SEPTEMBER 24, 2020)**

State and federal law prohibits discrimination against individuals based on disability. In addition, the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities require all licensed Maryland hospitals, related institutions, freestanding medical facilities, freestanding ambulatory care facilities, chronic disease centers, hospice care facilities, comprehensive rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living programs (collectively health care providers) to adopt policies allowing support persons for individuals with disabilities to stay with those persons during visits to health care providers (the Access Notice).

If you believe that one of the listed health care providers is violating the Access Notice, you may file a complaint with the Maryland Department of Health's Office of Health Care Quality by following the process described here:

<https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Pages/Complaints.aspx>.

If you believe that you are a victim of discrimination because of your disability, you may file a complaint with any of the following:

Effective October 1, 2020, you may file a complaint with MDH's Office of Equal Opportunity, Equal Access Compliance Unit and/or the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

Office of Equal Opportunity Programs  
Maryland Department of Health  
201 W. Preston Street, Suite 422  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
Phone: 410-767-6600

Fax: 410-333-5337

MD Relay: 711

Email:

Delinda Johnson Blake, Equal Access Compliance Manager at  
[delinda.blake@maryland.gov](mailto:delinda.blake@maryland.gov)

Andrea Gillespie, Equal Access Compliance Officer at  
[andrea.gillespie@maryland.gov](mailto:andrea.gillespie@maryland.gov)

AND/OR

Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR)

6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900

Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: 800-637-6247 | 410-767-8600

MD Relay: 711

Online: <https://mccr.maryland.gov/Pages/Intake.aspx>

You also may file complaints with the following federal agencies if you believe you have been subject to discrimination by a health care provider:

U.S. Department of Justice (via mail)

Civil Rights Division

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

4CON, 9th Floor

Washington, DC 20530

Online: <https://civilrights.justice.gov/report/>

Fax: (202) 307-1197

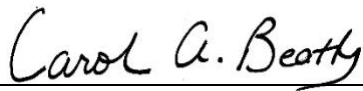
More information on the DOJ complaint process may be found by visiting:

[https://www.ada.gov/filing\\_complaint.htm](https://www.ada.gov/filing_complaint.htm)

**AND/OR**

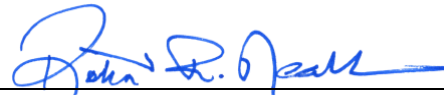
Centralized Case Management Operations  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (via mail)  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Room 509F HHH Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
Email to [OCRComplaint@hhs.gov](mailto:OCRComplaint@hhs.gov)  
Online: <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/smartscreen/main.jsf>

More information on the HHS complaint process may be found by visiting:  
<https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/filing-a-complaint/complaint-process/index.html>



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Carol A. Beatty  
Secretary, Department of Disabilities



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Robert R. Neall  
Secretary, Department of Health