



## Department of Public Service

### Public Service Commission

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**Kathleen H. Burgess**

Secretary

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### NOTICE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), the Department of Public Service will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

**Employment:** The Department of Public Service does not discriminate 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:** The Department of Public Service will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Department of Public Service 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:** The Department of Public Service 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 Department of Public Service 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 the Department of Public Service should contact the Department’s ADA Coordinator, Michele Newkirk, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Ms. Newkirk may be reached at [Michele.Newkirk@dps.ny.gov](mailto:Michele.Newkirk@dps.ny.gov), or by phone to 518.486-2435.

The ADA does not require the Department of Public Service 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 the Department of Public Service is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the Department’s ADA Coordinator, Ms. Michele Newkirk, at [Michele.Newkirk@dps.ny.gov](mailto:Michele.Newkirk@dps.ny.gov), or by phone to 518.486-2435.

The Department of Public Service 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.