

HAVENGROUP - Policy Manual

Subject: Accessible Customer Service
Issued by: Strategic Leadership Team
Revisions:
Review Date: Feb 25

Number: P2-56
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Effective: Feb 25

Signature: 

ACCESSIBLE CUSTOMER SERVICE

POLICY SUBJECT:

Accessible Customer Service

PURPOSE:

This policy has been developed to ensure that HavenGroup and all its entities, which includes, Rest Haven Care Home, Cedarwood Supportive Housing Inc., Woodhaven Manor, and Parkview Apartments of Steinbach Inc. strive to provide equal customer service for people with disabilities. This includes identifying, removing and preventing barriers for people with disabilities in obtaining, using and benefitting from our goods, services, and facilities.

For a person who has a physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory disability, a barrier is anything that interacts with that disability in a way that may hinder the person's full and effective participation in society on an equal basis.

The following are examples of barriers:

- a) A physical barrier;
- b) An architectural barrier;
- c) An information or communications barrier;
- d) An attitudinal barrier;
- e) A technological barrier;
- f) A barrier established or perpetuated by an enactment, a policy, or practice.

Associated Documents/Operational Forms

Reasonable Accommodation

Statements

Communication – HavenGroup will make reasonable efforts to ensure that, when communicating with a person who self-identifies as being disabled by a barrier, the communication is done in a manner that takes into account the barrier and that alternative formats are made available upon request.

HavenGroup will make reasonable efforts to ensure that information regarding our products and services, accessible features, and temporary barriers are available on our website.

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Assistive Devices – A person who is disabled by a barrier may use assistive devices when accessing our goods, services, or facilities and HavenGroup will reasonably accommodate the use of the assistive devices. The provision and safe use of an assistive device is the sole responsibility of the person using the assistive device.

In cases where an assistive device presents a significant or unavoidable health or safety concern or may not be permitted for other reasons, we will strive to use other reasonable measures to ensure that the person disabled by a barrier can access our goods, services, and facilities.

Support Person – A support person may accompany a person who is disabled by a barrier to our facilities.

Service Animals – A person who is disabled by a barrier may be accompanied by a service animal in areas of our facilities that are open to the public. In cases where the presence of a service animal presents a significant or unavoidable health or safety concern, or may not be permitted for other reasons, or may be excluded by law, we will strive to use other measures to ensure that the person disabled by a barrier can access our goods, services, and facilities.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy – HavenGroup is committed to reasonable accommodating persons disabled by a barrier. Requests for accommodation will be handled in accordance with our *P2-55 Reasonable Accommodation Policy*.

This information is available in alternate formats upon request.

Notice of Temporary Disruption – In the event of a planned or unexpected disruption to services or facilities for customers who are disabled by a barrier. A notice will be posted that will include information about the reasons for the disruption, its anticipated length of time, and a description of alternative facilities or services, if available. The notice will be posted at our premises, on our website, or by other means that may be appropriate in the circumstances.

Training – HavenGroup will train all staff, agents, and volunteers responsible for providing our goods and services to the public and all staff who are responsible for this policy, as soon as reasonably practical after the person is assigned the applicable duties, on:

- How to interact and communicate with persons disabled by barriers;
- How to interact and communicate with persons disabled by barriers who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a support person or service animal;
- How to use any equipment or assistive devices that may be available to assist persons disabled by barriers;
- What to do if a person disabled by a particular barrier is having difficulty accessing services; *The Human Rights Code* (Manitoba), *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*,

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- and its Customer Service Standard Regulation; and
- On-going training for changes to HavenGroup's measures, policies, and standards relating to providing barrier free access to its goods and services.

Accessible Customer Service Feedback – HavenGroup welcomes feedback on how we provide accessible customer service. Customers who wish to provide feedback may do so by contacting us:

- By mail: HavenGroup
185 Woodhaven Avenue
Steinbach, MB R5G 1K7
- By telephone: 204-326-2206
- By email: hginfo@havengroup.ca
- In person, by asking to speak with the Director of Resident Care.

Feedback will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel, and the response will be documented and tracked. Customers can expect to hear back within 30 days.

HavenGroup will document any actions resulting from feedback received. Such documentation will be made available, on request.

HavenGroup will make sure our feedback process is accessible to people with disabilities by providing or arranging for accessible formats to customers, upon request:

- This policy; and
- The process for providing feedback on the accessibility of our goods, services, and facilities.

HavenGroup will also display a notice at our premises that the above documents are available upon request. Requests will be handled within a reasonable time and at no cost.

POLICY:

HavenGroup is committed to meeting its obligations under *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* and its related Regulations, *The Human Rights Code* of Manitoba, and any other applicable laws related to accessibility. This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of HavenGroup and its employees with respect to *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act Customer Service Standard Regulation* and applies to all full-time, part-time, contract, and casual employees, agents, and volunteers who represent HavenGroup.

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HavenGroup recognizes that a person who is accompanied by a support person ought to be able to have access to the support person at all times when on the premises. This is a requirement of section 7(2)(b) of the regulation.

DEFINITIONS:

N/A

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

N/A

PROCEDURE:

N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A