

HR 16.2 AODA CUSTOMER SERVICE POLICY STATEMENT

PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

1. Our Mission

The mission of Brant Family and Children's Services is to work with families and the community to safeguard a permanent, nurturing family for all children at risk of abuse, neglect or abandonment.

In response to our commitment to strengthen and value families, we will work to recognize and use the strengths of families in all assessments, decision-making, and actions.

We share with the community the responsibility for protecting children and strengthening families.

We will work in collaboration with the community to achieve this purpose.

2. Our Commitment

In fulfilling our mission, Brant Family and Children's Services strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. We are committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place and in a similar way as other customers.

3. Providing goods and services to people with disabilities

Brant Family and Children's Services is committed to excellence in serving all customers including people with disabilities and we will carry out our functions and responsibilities in the following areas:

a) Communication

We will communicate with people with disabilities in ways that take into account their disability.

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We will train staff who communicate with customers on how to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities.

b) Telephone services

We are committed to providing fully accessible telephone service to our customers. We will train staff to communicate with customers over the telephone in clear and plain language and to speak clearly and slowly.

We will offer to communicate with customers by TTY if telephone communication is not suitable to their communication needs or is not available.

c) Assistive devices

We are committed to serving people with disabilities who use assistive devices to obtain, use or benefit from our goods and services. We will ensure our staff are trained and familiar with various assistive devices that may be used by customers with disabilities while accessing our goods and services.

We will also ensure that staff know how to use the following assistive devices available on our premises for customers:

- i. wheelchair ramp at back of 66 Chatham Street and 80 Chatham Street
- ii. elevator at 14 Henry Street
- iii. lift at 109 George street
- iv. TTY machine at 66 Chatham Street (Main)

d) Billing

We are committed to providing accessible invoices to all of our customers. For this reason, invoices will be provided in the following formats upon request: hard copy, large print, e-mail, in which provider will provide invoices.

We will answer any questions customers may have about the content of the invoice in person, by telephone or e-mail.

4. Use of service animals and support persons

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal on the parts of our premises that are open to the public and other third



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parties. We will also ensure that all staff, volunteers and others dealing with the public are properly trained in how to interact with people with disabilities who are accompanied by a service animal.

We are committed to welcoming people with disabilities who are accompanied by a support person. Any person who is accompanied by a support person will be allowed to enter Brant Family and Children's Services premises with his or her support person. At no time will a person with a disability who is accompanied by a support person be prevented from having access to his or her support person while on our premises.

5. Notice of temporary disruption

Brant Family and Children's Services will provide customers with notice in the event of a planned or unexpected disruption in the facilities or services usually used by people with disabilities. This notice will include information about the reason for the disruption, its anticipated duration, and a description of alternative facilities or services, if available.

The notice shall be placed at all public entrances and service counters on our premises.

6. Training for staff

Brant Family and Children's Services will provide training to all employees, volunteers and others who deal with the public or third parties on their behalf, and all those who are involved in the development and approvals of customer service policies, practices and procedures.

Training will include the following:

- The purposes of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), 2005 and the requirements of the customer service standard
- How to interact and communicate with people with various types of disabilities
- How to interact with people with disabilities who use an assistive device or require the assistance of a service animal or a support person
- How to use the TTY, ramps, wheelchair lifts, available on provider's premises or otherwise that may help with the provision of goods and services
- Brant Family and Children's Services's policies, practices and procedures relating to the customer service standard.

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Applicable staff will be trained on policies, practices and procedures that affect the way goods and services are provided to people with disabilities. Staff will also be trained on an ongoing basis when changes are made to these policies, practices and procedures.

7. Feedback process

The ultimate goal of Brant Family and Children's Services is to meet and surpass customer expectations while serving customers with disabilities. Comments on our services regarding how well those expectations are being met are welcome and appreciated.

Feedback regarding the way Brant Family and Children's Services provides goods and services to people with disabilities can be made in writing. All feedback will be directed to the Director of Administration. Customers can expect an acknowledgment of their comments within one or two business days of receipt. Customer's can expect a response within 20 days regarding the investigation of the comments and a solution.

Complaints will be addressed according to complaint categories already established in our Agency's complaint management procedures.

8. Modifications to this or other policies

We are committed to developing customer service policies that respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. Therefore, no changes will be made to this policy before considering the impact on people with disabilities.

Any policy of Brant Family and Children's Services that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.

9. Questions about this policy

This policy exists to achieve service excellence to customers with disabilities. If anyone has a question about the policy, or if the purpose of a policy is not understood, an explanation should be provided by, or referred to, Brant Family and Children's Services.



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