



# MEDICAL FORM CONFIRMING REQUIREMENT FOR GUIDE DOG OR SERVICE DOG

## INSTRUCTIONS TO PATIENT

Please complete and sign section 4 only.

Please ask your doctor or nurse practitioner to complete sections 1 to 3 and send the completed report directly in one of three ways:

- **Email:** [guideandservicedogs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:guideandservicedogs@gov.bc.ca)
- **Mail:** Policing and Security Branch, Security Programs Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, PO Box 9217 Stn Prov Gov, Victoria, BC V8W 971
- **Fax:** 250 387-4454.

You will be responsible for any charges for completing this form.

## 1. PATIENT INFORMATION

Patient's Name						
Legal Surname		Legal Given Name		Legal Middle Name		
Mailing Address			City		Province	Postal Code
Date of Birth YYYY	MM	DD				

## 2. OPINION

Having reviewed the appropriate information about the patient's condition and the guidelines supplied on the back of this form, does the patient, in your opinion, have a condition that requires a fully trained guide dog (for visual impairment) or fully trained service dog (for other conditions) to assist them in daily living?

- YES  
 NO

Additional Comments:

## 3. PRACTITIONER INFORMATION

Please tick one: <input type="radio"/> Nurse Practitioner (NP) <input type="radio"/> Examining Physician	Examination Date:
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Physician's or nurse practitioner's name			
Legal Surname		Legal Given Name	
Mailing Address		City	Province
			Postal Code
Telephone Number Area Code & Phone No.		Physician's or nurse practitioner's signature:	
<i>(may use rubber stamp for the name, address, telephone)</i>			

**4. PATIENT'S CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION**

1. I certify that the information I have given to the physician or nurse practitioner completing this report is to the best of my knowledge true and complete.
2. I understand that inaccurate, misleading, missing or false information may lead to denial or cancellation of my guide dog or service dog certification.
3. I authorize the release of this medical report and all past or future reports pertaining to my requirement for a guide dog or service dog to assist me in daily living.

\_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name of Patient                      \_\_\_\_\_ Patient's Signature                      \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed

**Collection Notice:** All information regarding this application is collected under s. 26(a) and (c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as per the *Guide Dog and Service Dog Act* and its Regulation and will be used for the purpose of certifying guide and service dog teams in BC. If you have questions regarding the collection or use of this information, please contact a Policy Analyst at 1-855-587-0185 or the address below.

# Guide Dogs & Service Dogs

## Medical Form Guidelines

The following list provides guidelines with regard to conditions that may warrant the use of a guide or service dog for daily living, and the types of tasks that a guide or service dog may perform to assist a person. The list of tasks is not exhaustive.

To clarify, a guide or service dog is **NOT**:

- A therapy dog that the dog owner takes on visits to people in institutions or in their homes providing others with an opportunity to interact with a dog.
- An emotional support dog that provides comfort and companionship to the dog owner only.

In neither case does the dog owner *require* a dog to assist him/her with day-to-day activities and to be present in all or most situations in order to lead as full and independent a life as possible.

It should be noted that, although a guide or service dog can assist a disabled person with independent living, having a guide or service dog will also place a burden on the patient. Caring for a guide or service dog can also have a detrimental impact both on the health and wellbeing of the patient and/or the guide or service dog.

### 1. Visual impairment (legally blind) requiring a guide dog:

- A guide dog essentially becomes the eyes for the visually impaired person and, therefore, performs myriad tasks. Some tasks are very complex and specialized, such as navigating a busy city sidewalk, crossing streets only when safe to do so, helping guide a person up stairs, opening doors, finding objects.

### 2. Hearing impairment to such a degree that the person requires a service dog to do similar tasks to those listed\*:

- Alert handler to name being called
- Alert handler to phone ringing
- Alert handler to oncoming cars
- Alert handler to any potential dangers
- Alert handler to the presence of others

### 3. Mobility issues to such a degree that the person requires a service dog to do similar tasks to those listed\*:

- Retrieving dropped items
- Holding items
- Carrying items in a store or to another room
- Placing items on the counter at the cash register
- Opening/closing doors
- Fetching a cane, walker or other equipment
  
- Assisting handler to get up from a chair or the floor
- Turning lights on and off
- Assisting with the transfer from wheelchair to chair (as in restaurant)
- Reaching for items from a shelf or shopping cart
- Answering a (cell) phone when it rings
- Alerting others in the event of emergency
- Alerting handler to hazards such as steps, curbs, potholes or other obstacles
- Fetching medications if needed
- Assisting with stairs
- Assisting with ambulation
- Retrieving a purse, wallet, backpack or travel bag
- Carrying mail
- Carrying an item to another person
- Pulling or maneuvering a wheelchair

- Assisting with shopping cart or basket
- Pushing handicap or elevator buttons
- Safely maneuvering handler in a parking lot
- Assistance in a public restroom
- Putting away an item
- Emergency body pull

**4. Conditions where a person would benefit from a service dog that can alert the person of an impending event (e.g. seizure disorders, diabetes, cardiac rhythm disturbances, etc). Medical alert service dogs can help a person better manage their condition and perform tasks\* such as:**

- Alerting handler to changes in medical condition, such as low blood sugar, impending seizures or cardiac rhythm disturbances
- Fetch medication if needed
- Fetch the phone so handler can call for help
- Alerting others to the need for assistance
- Reassuring handler during medical crisis
- Watch over handler until help arrives
- Assist handler in sitting or laying down in cases of impending medical crisis
- Assist handler in getting up from floor or chair after medical crisis

**5. Psychological conditions where the person, although well enough to care for a service dog, requires a service dog to assist them with daily living and managing their condition (e.g. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). A service dog may do similar tasks to those listed\*:**

- Tactile stimulation; orienting handler to here and now
- Assist with locating keys or telephone
- Fetch medication if needed
- Brace or lean against handler
- Assist handler to leave a social situation, as with panic attacks
- Facilitate social interactions
- Alert handler to the presence of other people
- Assist handler in creating a safe personal space
- Assist handler in safely crossing street
- Assist handler in safely maneuvering across parking lot
- Alert handler to changes in mood or mental status
- Buffer handler in crowded places

**6. Autism in children where, under the supervision of a parent or guardian, a service dog can assist by:**

- Calming child when agitated
- Preventing the child from self harming
- Preventing the child from bolting
- Facilitating social interactions for the child

\* From the "Service Dog Evaluator Guide", The Foundation for Service Dog Support, Inc. (<http://servicedogsupport.org>). Used with permission.