

Disabled people's rights in everyday life

Find out about your rights as a disabled person in different areas of life, including in employment, health and education.

Access to goods, premises and services

The Disability Discrimination Act gives disabled people important rights not to be discriminated against

- in accessing everyday goods and services like shops, cafes, banks, cinemas and places of worship
- in buying or renting land or property
- in accessing or becoming a member of a larger private club (25 or more members)
- in accessing the functions of public bodies, like the issuing of licences for example

Your rights in employment

It is unlawful for employers to discriminate against disabled people for a reason related to their disability, in all aspects of employment, unless this can be justified. Justification is only possible in certain circumstances.

Your rights in health

The Disability Discrimination Act gives disabled people rights of access to health services and social services, such as doctors' surgeries, dental surgeries and hospitals.

You also have a right to information about healthcare and social services in a format that is accessible to you where it is reasonable for the service provider to provide it in that format.

Your rights in education

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 amended the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA) to make it unlawful for education providers to discriminate against disabled pupils, students and adult learners; and to make sure disabled people are not disadvantaged in comparison with people who are not disabled.

Mental health and your rights

Many people with a mental health condition do not think of themselves as 'disabled' - but they have rights under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Mental Health Act 1983 covers the assessment, treatment and rights of people with a mental health condition.

The Mental Capacity Act aims to protect people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions. It provides clear guidelines for carers and professionals about who can take decisions in which situations.

Your rights - motoring and transport

Disabled people have rights of access in relation to motoring, transport and travel infrastructure, such as railway stations and airports, under the Disability Discrimination Act.

The Disability Discrimination Act also means that you have a right to information about transport - timetables, for example - in a format that is accessible to you where it is reasonable for the transport provider to provide it in that format.

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