

Model Letter: Professional Establishes Necessity for Emotional Support Animal

[Name of professional (e.g., therapist, physician, psychiatrist, rehabilitation counselor) and professional's address]

[Insert date]

Dear Association:

[Member's Name] is my patient, and has been under my care since *[insert date]*. I am intimately familiar with his history and with the functional limitations imposed by his disability. He meets the definition of disability under the Fair Housing Act.

Because of mental illness, *[Member's Name]* has certain limitations regarding *[insert condition, e.g., social interaction/coping with stress/anxiety, etc., but no specifics about disability]*. To help alleviate these difficulties, to enhance his ability to live independently, and to fully use and enjoy his unit, I am prescribing an emotional support animal that will assist *[Member's Name]* in coping with his disability.

I am familiar with the therapeutic benefits of assistance animals for people with disabilities such as that experienced by *[Member's Name]*. Upon request, I will share citations to relevant studies, and would be happy to answer other questions you may have concerning my recommendation that *[Member's Name]* have an emotional support animal. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at *[insert tel. #]*.

Sincerely,

[Signed by the professional, e.g., therapist, physician, psychiatrist, rehabilitation counselor]