AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

Dodge County, Georgia

April 15, 2013
Revised October 13, 2021

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Section 1: Purpose

Dodge County has prepared this **Transition Plan** to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

The update encompasses Dodge County's local government facilities such as:

Dodge County Road Department Shop, Dodge Avenue, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Offices, 5016 Courthouse Square, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Courthouse, 540 Courthouse Square, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Health Department, 504 Plaza Drive, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County E-911, 5417 Oak Street, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Jail, 5106 Courthouse Square, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County UGA Extension, 208 Foster Street, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Correctional Facility, 79 Industrial Blvd., Eastman, Georgia 31023

Eastman-Dodge Recreational Facilities, Eastman-Dublin Hwy, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Tax Assessor, 5018 Courthouse Circle, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Magistrate, 5018 Courthouse Circle, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Pearl Bates Annex, 643 Pearl Bates Ave, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County Transit, 112 2nd Avenue, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Dodge County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336 (ADA). This Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability and requires that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of that disability be denied the benefits of Dodge County's services, programs, activities or employment with Dodge County.

In compliance with Section 35, 106 of ADA's Title II regulations, all applicants, participants, beneficiaries and other interested individuals may obtain more information at www.ada.gov.

Dodge County ADA Compliance Officer, responsible for the coordination, development and implementation of the Transition Plan:

Name Rob Stanley
Title Building Inspector
Organization Dodge County

Street Address 540 Courthouse Square
City, State, Zip Eastman, GA 31023
Phone Number 478-285-3658

Section 2: Address of Grievance

Any person with a disability or any parent or guardian who represents a minor person with a disability, who believes that they have been the subject of disability-related discrimination on the basis of the denial of access to facilities, programs or services, may file a grievance.

In compliance with the above requirements, Dodge County has adopted and published the Dodge County Grievance Policy and Procedure for Disabled Individuals, located in Appendix A.

Section 3: Standards for Accessibility

Dodge County applies the following guidelines, manuals, standards and details:

- 1. The Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
- 2. Federal Highway Administration Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
- 3. Georgia Department of Transportation Pedestrian and Streetscape Guide

Section 4: Action Plan

Dodge County is aware of ADA requirements and will make every effort to comply.

Appendix A

Dodge County Grievance Policy and Procedure for Disabled Individuals

I. DODGE COUNTY GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 42 U.S.C 12101, et seq.

II. POLICY

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42, U.S.C. 12101, et seq, 1990 and 28 C.F. R. 35.107 (B), **Dodge County** desires to establish a policy for providing disabled individuals a local grievance procedure for resolution of complaints lodged under the Act. It is the County Commissioner's stated intention that this policy is intended to assist disabled individuals by providing access to the programs, services and facilities of Dodge County Government.

III. ADMINISTRATION

The County Commissioner as an official portion of this policy and procedure has established several administrative positions with certain responsibilities as follows:

- 1. ADA Coordinator. The County Manager shall serve as or designate an individual to serve as ADA Coordinator until his or her successor is appointed. It shall be the duty and responsibility of this individual to maintain all files and records of Dodge County relating to records, grievances and audits for the prescribed period pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the Coordinator shall be responsible for insuring that the provisions of this Grievance Policy are implemented and conducted fairly under the terms of the Americans with Disability Act and 28 C.F.R. 35.107 (B), and as these may be amended from time to time. The Coordinator's name shall be posted on the notices as required by the Act.
- 2. <u>ADA Department Representative</u>. Each Dodge County Department shall designate an individual within the department to serve as the ADA Representative whose duties and responsibilities shall include being the departmental individual charged with providing responses and coordination of information and processing grievances.
- 3. ADA Committee Panel. The County Manager is hereby authorized to select, in coordination with the Dodge County ADA Coordinator (if a separate individual), a panel of not less than two people to hear appeals or grievances filed pursuant to this policy. It shall be the duty of the panel to render timely decisions and to utilize its best efforts to resolve any disputes presented by the grievance regarding matters under the Americans with Disabilities Act and 28 C.F.R. 35.107 (B), and as these may be amended from time to time.

IV. PROCEDURE FOR FILING AND CONSIDERING A GRIEVANCE

- a. Any individual desiring to file a grievance shall complete the ADA grievance form, which is adopted in the form attached hereto and shown as Exhibit "A" herein. The completed form should be submitted to the Department ADA Representative no later than five (5) working days after the grievant becomes aware of the alleged violation or questioned activity.
- b. Thereafter, the Department's ADA Representative shall investigate and review the grievant's complaint and meet with the grievant within three (3) working days when possible. Resolution at the department level is encouraged. However, if no resolution can be reached, then it shall be the responsibility of the Department's ADA Representative to schedule an informal grievance hearing before the ADA Committee Panel not later than two (2) weeks following the meeting between the ADA Representative and the individual. At the hearing, the Department's ADA Representative and the grievant shall be given the opportunity to submit pertinent information to the panel. Additionally, the Panel may receive information from any interested person. These rules contemplate an information hearing process to provide optimum opportunity to resolve any and all issues presented for discussion.
- c. Thereafter, the Panel shall submit a written determination resolution, if any, which shall be made no later than ten (10) working days following the hearing by the Panel, unless otherwise agreed upon by the parties. The determination of the ADA Committee Panel shall be deemed the final determination.

EXHIBIT A

Dodge County Commission

ADA Coordinator Rob Stanley

Address 5016 Courthouse Square, Eastman, Georgia 31023

Phone 478-374-8127 Fax 478-374-8121

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Discrimination Complaint Form

Instructions: Please fill out this form completely, sign and return to:

Dodge County ADA Coordinator

Dodge County Board of Commissioners

643 Pearl Bates Avenue Eastman, Georgia 31023

Complainant:			
Address:			
City, State, Zip Code:			
Telephone – Home:	Business:	Cell:	
Person Discriminated Against (if other than complainant):		
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
Telephone – Home:	Business:	Cell:	

County government department, facility or program which you believe has discriminated:
Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Telephone:
When did the discrimination occur (date)?
Describe the acts of discrimination providing the name(s) where possible of the individuals who discriminated:
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Have efforts been made to resolve this complaint through the internal grievance procedure of the department or organization? Yes No
If yes, what is the status of the grievance?
Signature: Date: