

SUMMER CAMPS AND THE ADA

U.S. Attorney's Office

May 2015

District of Massachusetts

Summer Fun for Children of All Abilities

Children with learning, mental health, and/or physical disabilities have the same rights to attend summer camp as their non-disabled peers, and cannot be denied admission due to their disability.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that summer camps (both private and those run by towns or municipalities) must provide reasonable modifications of their policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to enable campers with disabilities to participate fully in camp programs, unless the camp can demonstrate that the necessary modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the services and activities offered by the camp.

Helpful tips for summer camps:

- Camps must evaluate each child on an individual basis.
- Parents cannot be required to pay the cost of the reasonable modifications necessary for their child to fully participate in all camp activities.
- Camps should train staff in the requirements of the ADA.
- Camps must train staff to administer daily and emergency medications required by campers with disabilities just as they do for the proper use of Epi-Pens for anaphylactic allergic reactions.

The ADA and Children with Medication Needs

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- A summer camp must make reasonable modifications for children with medication needs
- Camps must train staff to monitor and supervise campers with medical conditions such as children with severe allergies.

The U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts are committed to enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act. This bulletin contains only a short summary of obligations under the ADA.

For more information, check out www.ada.gov or contact:

Department of Justice: ADA Information Line: 800-514-0301 (voice); 800-514-0383 (TTY)
Or the U.S. Attorney's Office: (617) 748-3100