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to a total of 60 days without further proceedings under this part.

(f) When the suspension is based on the grounds in §1623.3(c), a recipient's funds may be suspended until an acceptable audit is completed.

**§ 1623.5 Time extensions and waiver.**

(a) Except for the time limits in §1623.4(e), any period of time provided in this part may be extended by the Corporation for good cause. Requests for extensions of time shall be considered in light of the overall objective that the procedures prescribed by this part ordinarily shall be concluded within 30 days of the service of the proposed determination.

(b) Any other provision of this part may be waived or modified by agreement of the recipient and the Corporation for good cause.

(c) Failure by the Corporation to meet a time requirement of this part shall not preclude the Corporation from suspending a recipient's grant or contract with the Corporation.

**§ 1623.6 Interim funding.**

(a) Pending the completion of suspension proceedings under this part, the Corporation shall provide the recipient with the level of financial assistance provided for under its current grant or contract with the Corporation.

(b) Funds withheld pursuant to a suspension shall be returned to the recipient at the end of the suspension period.

**PART 1624—PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP**

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 794; 42 U.S.C. 2996f(a) (1) and (3).

SOURCE: 44 FR 55178, Sept. 25, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

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**§ 1624.1 Purpose.**

The purpose of this part is to assist and provide guidance to legal services programs supported in whole or in part by Legal Services Corporation funds in removing any impediments that may exist to the provision of legal assistance to handicapped persons eligible for such assistance in accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. section 794 and with sections 1007(a) (1) and (3) of the Legal Services Corporation Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. sections 2996f(a) (1) and (3), with respect to the provision of services to and employment of handicapped persons.

**§ 1624.2 Application.**

This part applies to each legal services program receiving financial assistance from the Legal Services Corporation.

**§ 1624.3 Definitions.**

As used in this part, the term:

(a) *Legal services program* means any recipient, as defined by §1600.1 of these regulations, or any other public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which or to whom financial assistance is extended by the Legal Services Corporation directly or through another agency, institution, organization, entity or person, including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a legal services program, but does not include the ultimate beneficiary of legal assistance;

(b) *Facility* means all or any portion of buildings, structures, equipment, roads, walks, parking lots, or other real or personal property or interest in such property;

(c)(1) *Handicapped person* means any person who: (i) Has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of such an impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having such an impairment;

(2) As used in paragraph (a)(1) of this section the phrase:

(i) *Physical or mental impairment* means: (A) Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: Neurological; musculoskeletal; special

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sense organs; digestive; genitourinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or (B) any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities; The phrase includes, but is not limited to, such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental retardation, emotional illness, and drug addiction and alcoholism;

(ii) *Major life activities* means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working;

(iii) *Has a record of such impairment* means has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;

(iv) *Is regarded as having an impairment* means: (A) Has a physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities but is treated by a legal services program as constituting such a limitation; (B) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairments; or (C) has none of the impairments defined in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section but is treated by a legal services program as having such an impairment;

(d) *Qualified handicapped person* means: (1) With respect to employment, a handicapped person who, with reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job in question; (2) with respect to other services, a handicapped person who meets the eligibility requirements for the receipt of such services from the legal services program.

### § 1624.4 Discrimination prohibited.

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination by any legal services program, directly or through

any contractual or another arrangement.

(b) A legal services program may not deny a qualified handicapped person the opportunity to participate in any of its programs or activities or to receive any of its services provided at a facility on the ground that the program operates a separate or different program, activity or facility that is specifically designed to serve handicapped persons.

(c) In determining the geographic site or location of a facility, a legal services program may not make selections that have the purpose or effect of excluding handicapped persons from, denying them the benefits of, or otherwise subjecting them to discrimination under any program or activity of the legal services program.

(d)(1) A legal services program that employs a total of fifteen or more persons, regardless of whether such persons are employed at one or more locations, shall provide, when necessary, appropriate auxiliary aids to persons with impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills, in order to afford such persons an equal opportunity to benefit from the legal services program's services. A legal services program is not required to maintain such aids at all times, provided they can be obtained on reasonable notice.

(2) The Corporation may require legal services programs with fewer than fifteen employees to provide auxiliary aids where the provision of such aids would not significantly impair the ability of the legal services program to provide its services.

(3) For the purpose of §1624.4(d) (1) and (2), auxiliary aids include, but are not limited to, brailled and taped material, interpreters, telecommunications equipment for the deaf, and other aids for persons with impaired hearing, speech or vision.

(e) A legal services program shall take reasonable steps to insure that communications with its applicants, employees, and beneficiaries are available to persons with impaired vision and hearing.

(f) A legal services program may not deny handicapped persons the opportunity to participate as members of or in the meetings or activities of any

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planning or advisory board or process established by or conducted by the legal services program, including but not limited to meetings and activities conducted in response to the requirements of part 1620 of these regulations.

**§ 1624.5 Accessibility of legal services.**

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, because a legal services program's facilities are inaccessible to or unusable by handicapped persons, be denied the benefits of, be excluded from participation in, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination by any legal services program.

(b) A legal services program shall conduct its programs and activities so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. This paragraph does not necessarily require a legal services program to make each of its existing facilities or every part of an existing facility accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, or require a legal services program to make structural changes in existing facilities when other methods are effective in achieving compliance. In choosing among available methods for meeting the requirements of this paragraph, a legal services program shall give priority to those methods that offer legal services to handicapped persons in the most integrated setting appropriate.

(c) A legal services program shall, to the maximum extent feasible, insure that new facilities that it rents or purchases are accessible to handicapped persons. Prior to entering into any lease or contract for the purchase of a building, a legal services program shall submit a statement to the appropriate Regional Office certifying that the facilities covered by the lease or contract will be accessible to handicapped persons, or if the facilities will not be accessible, a detailed description of the efforts the program made to obtain accessible space, the reasons why the inaccessible facility was nevertheless selected, and the specific steps that will be taken by the legal services program to insure that its services are accessible to handicapped persons who would otherwise use that facility. After a statement certifying facility accessibility has been submitted, additional

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statements need not be resubmitted with respect to the same facility, unless substantial changes have been made in the facility that affect its accessibility.

(d) A legal services program shall ensure that new facilities designed or constructed for it are readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons. Alterations to existing facilities shall, to the maximum extent feasible, be designed and constructed to make the altered facilities readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons.

**§ 1624.6 Employment.**

(a) No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be subjected to discrimination in employment by any legal services program.

(b) A legal services program shall make all decisions concerning employment under any program or activity to which this part applies in a manner that insures that discrimination on the basis of handicap does not occur, and may not limit, segregate, or classify applicants or employees in any way that adversely affects their opportunities or status because of handicap.

(c) The prohibition against discrimination in employment applies to the following activities:

(1) Recruitment, advertising, and the processing of applications for employment;

(2) Hiring, upgrading, promotion, award of tenure, demotion, transfer, layoff, termination, right of return from layoff, and rehiring;

(3) Rates of pay or any other form of compensation and changes in compensation;

(4) Job assignments, job classifications, organizational structures, position descriptions, lines of progression, and seniority lists;

(5) Leaves of absence, sick leave, or any other leave;

(6) Fringe benefits available by virtue of employment, whether or not administered by the legal services program;

(7) Selection and financial support for training, including apprenticeship, professional meetings, conferences, and other related activities, and selection for leaves of absence to pursue training;

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(8) Employer sponsored activities, including social or recreational programs; and

(9) Any other term, condition, or privilege of employment.

(d) A legal services program may not participate in any contractual or other relationship with persons, agencies, organizations or other entities such as, but not limited to, employment and referral agencies, labor unions, organizations providing or administering fringe benefits to employees of the legal services program, and organizations providing training and apprenticeship programs, if the practices of such person, agency, organization, or other entity have the effect of subjecting qualified handicapped applicants or employees to discrimination prohibited by this paragraph.

(e) A legal services program shall make reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified handicapped applicant or employee unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the program.

(1) For purposes of this paragraph (e), reasonable accommodation may include (i) making facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, and (ii) job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, the provision of readers or interpreters, and other similar actions.

(2) In determining whether an accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the operation of a legal services program, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to, the overall size of the legal services program with respect to number of employees, number and type of facilities, and size of budget, and the nature and costs of the accommodation needed.

(3) A legal services program may not deny any employment opportunity to a qualified handicapped employee or applicant if the basis for the denial is a need to make reasonable accommodation to the physical or mental limitations of the employee or applicant.

(f) A legal services program may not use employment tests or criteria that discriminate against handicapped per-

sons, and shall insure that employment tests are adapted for use by persons who have handicaps that impair sensory, manual, or speaking skills.

(g) A legal services program may not conduct a pre-employment medical examination or make a pre-employment inquiry as to whether an applicant is a handicapped person or as to the nature or severity of a handicap except under the circumstances described in 45 CFR 84.14(a) through (d)(2). The Corporation shall have access to relevant information obtained in accordance with this section to permit investigations of alleged violations of this part.

(h) A legal services program shall post in prominent places in each of its offices a notice stating that the legal services program does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

(i) Any recruitment materials published or used by a legal services program shall include a statement that the legal services program does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

### § 1624.7 Self-evaluation.

(a) By January 1, 1980, a legal services program shall evaluate, with the assistance of interested persons including handicapped persons or organizations representing handicapped persons, its current facilities, policies and practices and the effects thereof to determine the extent to which they may or may not comply with the requirements of this part and the cost of structural or other changes that would be necessary to make each of its facilities accessible to handicapped persons.

(b) The results of the self-evaluation, including steps the legal services program plans to take to correct any deficiencies revealed and the timetable for completing such steps, shall be made available for review by the Corporation and interested members of the public.

### § 1624.8 Enforcement.

The procedures described in part 1618 of these regulations shall apply to any alleged violation of this part by a legal services program.

## PART 1625 [RESERVED]