

Gulf Breeze Dentistry

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Practice Name: Gulf Breeze Dentistry
Phone: (850) 934-8222
Website: www.dentistryofgulfbreeze.com

Purpose

Gulf Breeze Dentistry is committed to providing equal access and quality dental care to all patients, including individuals with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable state and federal laws.

Our practice strives to ensure that patients with disabilities are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion while receiving safe and appropriate dental care.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Gulf Breeze Dentistry does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of our services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations.

We are committed to making reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures when necessary to provide access to care for individuals with disabilities, unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the services provided or create an undue burden.

Accessibility Accommodations

Gulf Breeze Dentistry will make reasonable efforts to accommodate patients with disabilities, including but not limited to:

- Wheelchair-accessible pathways and treatment areas where feasible
- Assistance entering or exiting the office when requested
- Communication accommodations for patients with hearing, vision, speech, or cognitive impairments
- Allowing service animals in accordance with ADA regulations
- Flexible scheduling considerations when medically necessary
- Assistance completing forms or understanding treatment information
- Permission for caregivers, guardians, or support persons to accompany patients when appropriate

Patients are encouraged to notify the office in advance of any accommodation requests so we may prepare appropriately.

Effective Communication

Gulf Breeze Dentistry is committed to providing effective communication with patients and companions who have disabilities.

Depending on the situation and the patient's needs, accommodations may include:

- Written communication
- Larger print documents
- Communication through caregivers or support persons when authorized
- Use of assistive technology or communication aids when reasonably available
- Extra time for explanation of procedures, treatment plans, and financial arrangements

The practice will consider patient preferences when determining appropriate communication accommodations.

Service Animals

Service animals as defined by the ADA are welcome in all areas of the office where patients are permitted.

Staff may ask only the following questions when the need for a service animal is not obvious:

1. Is the animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

Service animals must remain under the handler's control at all times.

Appointment and Treatment Considerations

Our team will work collaboratively with patients and caregivers to support safe and comfortable dental treatment.

Reasonable modifications may include:

- Scheduling additional appointment time when clinically appropriate
- Allowing breaks during treatment
- Coordinating with caregivers or medical providers when necessary
- Providing alternative methods of communication and education

However, the practice reserves the right to decline treatment that cannot be safely provided within the capabilities of the office environment or staffing.

Website and Digital Accessibility

Gulf Breeze Dentistry strives to maintain an accessible website and digital communications experience for all users.

If a patient experiences difficulty accessing information on our website or digital materials, they are encouraged to contact our office for assistance.

Staff Training

Team members receive training and guidance regarding:

- ADA compliance principles
- Respectful communication
- Patient privacy and dignity

- Appropriate accommodation procedures
- Safe assistance practices

Questions or Accommodation Requests

Patients who require accommodations or who have concerns regarding accessibility are encouraged to contact the office.

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Policy Review

This policy may be updated periodically to reflect changes in legal requirements, office procedures, or accessibility practices.