

## Service Animals in Florida

In Florida, the controlling statute is 413.08 (FS)

[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0400-0499/0413/Sections/0413.08.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0413/Sections/0413.08.html) ) and allows for individuals with a disability, as defined, to have a service dog/miniature horse. However, there is no required form for any physician to fill out for the patient to receive the service animal. In order for the patient to receive the animal, they would need to do so through a service organization, which may require a letter from their physician attesting to a disability.

As for the patient being allowed to have a service dog in a condo, again, there is no form the physician is required to complete. However, the patient may be requested to provide to the HOA proof of the disability from their physician in the form of a letter on letterhead. But, keeping in mind HIPAA, the physician would only want to attest to a diagnose that is included in the listing in 413.08 (1)(b), and nothing specific to the actual diagnoses. Putting the actual diagnoses would subject the physician to a violation of HIPAA, releasing medical records to a third party.