

Notes on Assistance Animal Documentation

Documentation should be completed by:

- A medical provider or mental health provider who has an *ongoing* relationship with the student.
- A provider who is licensed in the state of Iowa or in the jurisdiction in which the individual was evaluated. (See [Iowa Code 154B.4](#))
 - For example, if the student was in Minnesota when they were evaluated, the evaluator is required to be licensed in Minnesota.
- A medical provider or mental health professional who is practicing within their area of expertise.
 - For example, a chiropractor is not competent to diagnose or treat mental disorders.
- If the provider is practicing telemental health or telemedicine (i.e. providing services via video chat/telephone/etc.) they must be practicing within the telehealth guidelines for their profession.

Regarding ESA Registries:

Registering your animal with an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) registry is not required nor is proof of registration sufficient documentation for an assistance animal.

- No state or federal entity requires an assistance animal or a service animal to be registered (as of October 2017).
 - Beware of online registries; most take clients' money without offering necessary services or products in return.

Regarding Online ESA Verification Services:

Most online providers advertising ESA letters/verification do not meet the above guidelines

- Beware of the online providers advertised on ESA registries or that come up in searches. Most of them do not meet the guidelines set forth above.
 - If you have any questions about particular providers, *please call or email to ask!*

If you have questions, please call us at (515) 294-7220.