

Affordable Care Act - Section 1557

Non-discrimination in Health Programs and Activities and Grievance Procedure

Scope: AIDS Alabama South in Mobile, AL.

Policy: AIDS Alabama South complies with applicable Federal Civil Rights laws and does not exclude, deny access to HIV and Hepatitis C testing, or otherwise discriminate against or treat differently any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or stereotyping, gender identity, genetic information, pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions in admission to, participation in, or receipt of the services and benefits under any of its programs and activities, whether carried out by AIDS Alabama South directly or through a contractor or any other entity with which AIDS Alabama South arranges to carry out its programs and activities.

This statement is in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Affordable Act Section 1557, and Regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued pursuant to these statutes at Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 80, 84, and 91.

AIDS Alabama South provides to people with disabilities or those whose preferred language for communication is not English and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak or understand English auxiliary aids and services, such as qualified sign language interpreters, qualified spoken language interpreters, over-the-phone interpretation services, video remote interpreting, written information in other formats at no cost to people with disabilities, or are limited English proficient, in order to communicate effectively with us as we do with others.

Should you require any of these services, please let the person scheduling your appointment know about the assistance you need.

If you believe that AIDS Alabama South has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, gender identity or sex, you can file a grievance. Please contact the Compliance Officer for the facility for which you have the grievance. See grievance procedure. The Compliance Officer can assist you if you need help filing a grievance.

Grievance Procedure

Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act

AIDS Alabama South has adopted an internal grievance procedure for our facility providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the Affordable Care Act Section 1557. Any person who believes s/he has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, age or disability may file a grievance. It is against the law for AIDS Alabama South or program to retaliate against anyone who files a grievance or cooperates in the investigation of a grievance.

Procedure:

Grievances must be submitted to the Compliance Officer for AIDS Alabama South within 30 days of the date the person filing the grievance becomes aware of the alleged discriminatory action. The Compliance Officer.

A grievance must be in writing, containing the name and address of the person filing it.

The grievance must state in as much detail as possible the problem or action alleged to be discriminatory and the remedy or relief sought.

The Compliance Officer shall conduct an investigation of the complaint. This investigation may be informal, but it must be thorough, affording all interested persons an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint. Files and records related to such grievance will be maintained. A written decision on the grievance will be completed no later than 30 business days after its filing. The person filing the grievance may appeal the decision within 15 days of receiving the decision to the Chief Operating Officer by writing to the AIDS Alabama South, 4321 Downtowner Loop N., Mobile, AL 36609.

Appropriate arrangements will be made to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, if needed, to participate in this grievance process. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing appropriate material for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings.

The availability of the AIDS Alabama South Grievance procedure does not prevent a person from filing a complaint of discrimination on the basis of disability with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights.

A person can file a grievance of discrimination electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, which is available at: <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/smartscreen/main.jsf> or by mail or phone at: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 20201. Complaint forms are available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>. Such complaints must be filed within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination.