

LONG TERM SICK OR DISABLED. SIGNING ON FOR JSA OR ESA.

What you need to know before signing a Jobseekers Agreement.

When you sign a Jobseeker's Agreement (JA) or Claimant Commitment (CC), it means you agree to do things to look for work. If you don't do this, the Jobcentre Plus can stop your benefits – this is called being sanctioned. If you tell your adviser at Jobcentre Plus about any difficulties you have looking for work as a result of your long term illness or disability, it may stop this happening. For example you might have problems in getting to appointments, or spending long hours looking for work or filling in forms or you may have problems in doing some kinds of work.

If you have difficulties in looking for work or with signing on, you need to ask for them to be written down in your JA or CC. When you contact the Jobcentre Plus, they have to help disabled people overcome problems that people without disabilities don't face. This is known as the duty to make "reasonable adjustments".



Guidance notes for claimants and advisors
Who is 'disabled' under the Equality Act 2010:

- *You are disabled if you have a physical or mental condition that has a substantial and long term bad effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.*
- *Substantial – For example, it takes much longer than other people to finish a daily task like getting dressed.*
- *Long-term- a condition that has lasted or will last a year or more. For example breathing condition after a lung infection.*
- *Normal daily activities – things that people do regularly. For example, shopping, reading and writing, using the phone, watching television, washing and dressing, making and eating food, housework, walking and travelling or taking part in social activities*



Protection under the Equality Act 2010

This law recognises that adjustments (changes) need to be made to help disabled people have same chance as anyone who does not have a disability to use a service. This is known as the duty to make reasonable adjustments. Reasonable means something that is fair and that an organisation is able to do.



There are special rules about conditions that fluctuate and do not cause problems on a day to day basis, for example, arthritis. People who have HIV infections, cancer or multiple sclerosis automatically meet the disability definition once they are diagnosed.

Some conditions aren't covered by the disability definition, for example addiction to non-prescribed drugs or alcohol.

This is a brief summary of the law and rules. For better more complete advice please ask for advice from Central and East Citizens Advice Bureau or Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council.

Tear out form to complete (please make a copy and keep in a safe place)

To the Jobcentre Plus:

Name: Date:

Address:

..... Postcode:

National Insurance Number:

I have been advised that as a disabled person, under the Equality Act 2010, I am entitled to reasonable adjustments to my job seeking agreement or claimant commitment

My disability is:

The substantial problem(s) affecting my day to day activities is/are:

.....

.....

I need the following reasonable adjustments:

A change to my signing on appointment to

Flexibility in my signing on time

Signing on less often (how often)

- Reducing the number of job applications I need to make
- Help completing forms
- Help with using a computer
- Help with referral to a disability employment adviser
- Not having a referral to Workfare*
- Referring me to the Access to Work Programme**
- Increasing sick time before sanctions are put in
- Not sanctioning me for breaches of my agreement as a result of symptoms of my disability.

Signature: Date:

PRINT NAME:

* Workfare – A Government programme that makes people work for their benefit payments

** Access to Work – A Government scheme for disabled workers paying for certain reasonable adjustments such as equipment, support worker or travelling to work.

Contact:

Central and East Citizens Advice Bureau

7-8 Mercers Row, Town Centre, Northampton NN1 2QL

Telephone: 01604 235080



Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council

C/o Oak building, Northampton College,
Booth Lane, Northampton NN3 3RF

Telephone: 01604 400808

