

# A guide for disabled students

## Easy Read Guide



## What is the Equality and Human Rights Commission?



The Equality and Human Rights Commission works to make sure that people are treated fairly and equally.

We are working to stop **discrimination** against disabled people, men and women and people from different races and cultures.

### **Discrimination**

This means treating someone worse than other people for some reason.

We are also working to make sure that people of different ages, **lesbian** and **gay** people and people from different religions are treated fairly and equally.

### **Lesbian and gay**

**Lesbian** means a woman who is attracted to other women. **Gay** means a man who is attracted to other men.

We also want to make sure that people's **human rights** are respected.

### **Human rights**

Basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world.

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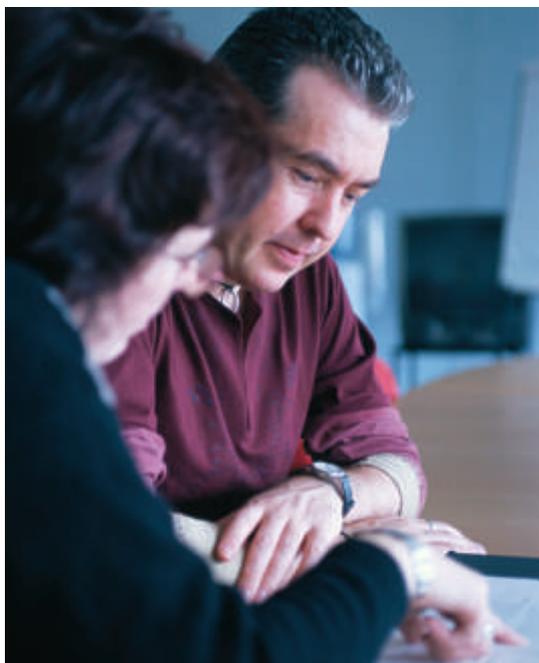
## What does the law say?

The law says that if you are a **student** and you are disabled, you should

- be treated the same as anyone else
- have the same choices as anyone else.

### **Student**

This means if you are learning at a college.



## Does the law matter to you?

The law matters to you if you are

1. Over 16 years old
2. A student, or you are thinking of becoming a student



3. You have a disability. For example, a learning disability.

## How does the law help?

The law helps you when you are a student in a classroom. The law says that you must be treated the same as everyone else.

The law also helps you when you are:

- trying to become a student
- using the student library



- going on a trip your college has organised
- doing sport
- in the canteen
- in student housing.

## Examples of discrimination

These are examples of **discrimination**.  
They are against the law.

### **Discrimination**

This means treating someone worse than other people for some reason.

### **Discrimination because of a disability**

**Example:** You are told that you cannot go to college because the college does not take people with learning disabilities.

**Example:** A student uses a walking stick. He is told he cannot go on a walking trip because he would walk too slowly.

## **Discrimination by not doing things to help disabled people**

**Example:** A student with a learning disability is told she cannot use a support worker.

**Example:** A deaf student is told he cannot have a **signer** in the classroom.

### **Signer**

This is a person who uses their hands to talk to a deaf person. This is called using sign language.



## Being fair

The law says that the college has to make changes to help you study. This means doing what is fair.

Any changes need to be fair to you. They also need to be fair to the college.

### **Should I tell my college about my disability?**

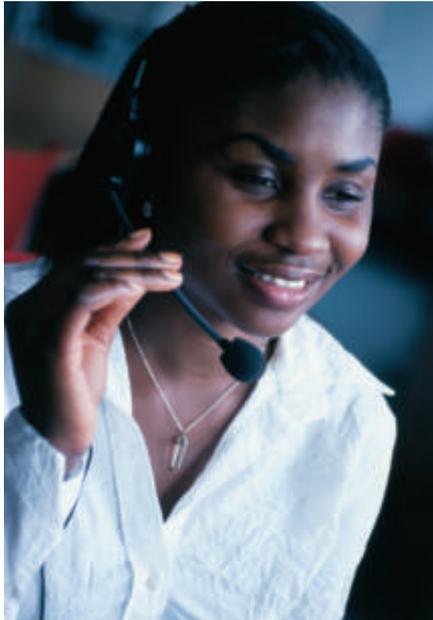
Yes, this is the best thing to do.

Then they should make sure that you are treated fairly.

You can ask them not to tell anyone else about your disability.

## **What can I do if I think I am being treated unfairly?**

If you feel you have been treated unfairly, you can talk to your support worker.



You can also contact the Equality and Human Rights Commission Helpline. See the back cover of this book for contact details.

You can also ask the college about their **complaints procedure**.

**Complaints procedure**

This is a way you can tell people how you have been treated unfairly.

If this does not work you may want to go to court. The judge will decide what to do next.

You need to complain to the court within six months of the time when you were treated unfairly.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission will be able to tell you more about this. See the back cover of this book for contact details.

# Words list

These are some of the words we use in this book.

## **Student**

This means if you are learning at a college.

## **Discrimination**

This means treating someone worse than other people for some reason.

## **Signer**

This is a person who uses their hands to talk to a deaf person. This is called using sign language.

## **Complaints procedure**

This is a way you can tell people how you have been treated unfairly.



You can find out more about us by going to our website: [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com)

You can ask us about how we can help you by using the Equality and Human Rights Commission Helpline. There are different numbers for England, Scotland and Wales.



### England

**Telephone** 08456 046 610  
**Textphone** 08456 046 620  
**Fax** 08456 046 630



### Scotland

**Telephone** 08456 045 510  
**Textphone** 08456 045 520  
**Fax** 08456 045 530



### Wales

**Telephone** 08456 048 810  
**Textphone** 08456 048 820  
**Fax** 08456 048 830



The Helplines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, except Wednesday 9am to 8pm