

What is Diabetes Discrimination and Why Should You Care?

This is what it is!

- A child is not able to attend his local school because of school district policy that requires students with diabetes to attend only certain, so-called “diabetes schools.”
- A pharmacist is fired after taking a lunch break to eat and test his blood sugar level.
- A woman is forced to remove her diabetes pump at airline checkpoints because security personnel do not understand diabetes care.

This is why you should care!

- Everybody who has diabetes deserves to be treated fairly. But that doesn't always happen.
- Sometimes they are not treated fairly JUST because of having diabetes, or because they use insulin. This is also known as discrimination.
- Sometimes people don't even realize that it's discrimination. They just know something doesn't seem right.
- Diabetes discrimination can happen at work, at school and in other parts of daily life.
- But, there are federal laws that protect people who have diabetes and for those who face discrimination, help is available.

Who can help?

- The American Diabetes Association. Call 1-800-DIABETES (342-2383).

How Does the American Diabetes Association help?

- A trained representative will answer and share information that can help.
- When needed, a lawyer in the American Diabetes Association's Legal Advocacy Department will talk to the caller – then provide expert information and guidance.
- The goal is to solve each discrimination problem through education and negotiation.
- When that doesn't work, a lawyer – member of the Association's Advocacy Attorney Network from the person's local area -may get involved– sometimes by writing a letter, making a phone call or attending a meeting.
- But, sometimes legal action may be needed. In those cases, Association staff members are available to help local lawyers in legal actions.
- And, when the law itself is the obstacle, the American Diabetes Association will work to change the law.

So, when diabetes discrimination happens, the American Diabetes Association is the place to turn by calling 1-800-DIABETES for expert information and help.