

## **State of Maine Judicial Branch Guide to the Use of Mobility Devices**

It is the policy of the State of Maine Judicial Branch that programs, activities, and facilities of the court system will be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, as required by fairness and justice, as well as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Maine Human Rights Act.

The Judicial Branch recognizes its obligation to provide full physical access at court facilities. People with mobility, circulatory, respiratory, or neurological disabilities use many kinds of devices for mobility.

### **The Judicial Branch welcomes people with disabilities who use manual or power wheelchairs or scooters, and manually-powered mobility aids, into all areas where members of the public are allowed to go.**

Manually-powered mobility aids include such devices as walkers, crutches, and canes. The Judicial Branch does not provide mobility aids or wheelchairs to the public as an accommodation.

In addition, the Judicial Branch will accommodate other types of power-driven mobility devices (OPDMD) for people with disabilities, such as the Segway PT and other electronic personal assistance devices.

The Judicial Branch requires the operator of the OPDMD to limit the speed of the device to the pace of pedestrian traffic. These OPDMDs will be accommodated unless:

- the device poses a substantial risk of serious harm to the immediate environment or other members of the public,
- there is a high volume of pedestrian traffic, or
- the Judicial Branch facility's design and operational characteristics will not permit safe operation.

Judicial Branch personnel may ask the person using the OPDMD for credible assurance that the device is used for a disability, such as a State-issued disability parking placard or card, as allowed by the ADA. When the Judicial Branch is not able to reasonably accommodate an OPDMD in a specific facility, the Judicial Branch will provide the service or program to the person with a disability in an alternate way, if possible.

**ATVs, golf carts, or other combustion engine-driven devices used by people with disabilities will not be accommodated.**

**These devices are prohibited from Judicial Branch facilities due to safety concerns.**

#### **Questions or Complaints**

If you have questions about this policy, or feel that you have not been treated fairly, please contact:

Court Access Coordinator  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
PO Box 4820, Portland ME 04112  
Phone: (207) 822-0718  
TTY: Maine Relay 711  
[accessibility@courts.maine.gov](mailto:accessibility@courts.maine.gov)