



Access-A-Ride Applicants: How does the settlement affect you?

What is the settlement?

On September 13, 2016, a federal court approved the settlement of a class action lawsuit brought by MFY Legal Services Inc.'s clients against NYC Transit ("NYCT"). The settlement changes unfair Access-A-Ride ("AAR") policies for thousands of New Yorkers with disabilities.

What was the lawsuit about?

Many people with disabilities need AAR for transportation. But many MFY clients are denied AAR. Before the settlement, many people didn't know why they were denied in time to appeal. That's because NYCT sent everyone who was denied the same letter. NYCT also did not tell people how to get their records from the AAR assessment. If they asked, NYCT said they must pay for the records. NYCT often did not provide the records before the deadline to appeal. Also, whenever NYCT denied or lowered the level of AAR for a current user who was reapplying or recertifying, that decision was effective immediately. So, those people could not take AAR to an in-person appeal. We sued NYCT because these policies, and others, violated the Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws.

How does the settlement affect me?

- If NYCT denies your application, it will mail a copy of your Denial Form with the decision letter. The Denial Form gives a personalized summary of the reasons you were denied, which can help if you decide to appeal.
- If NYCT denies your application or finds you conditionally eligible, you can get your assessment records, for free, within 30 days of requesting them.
- If you currently use AAR, and NYCT ends or lowers your level of service when you reapply or recertify, that decision is not effective immediately. Instead, you can continue using AAR with the same level of service for 60 days, until the deadline to appeal ends or, if you file an appeal, until the appeal is decided.
- If NYCT denies your appeal, you can get your internal appeal record, for free, within 30 days of requesting it. This procedure, and information on how to fight that denial in court, will be in the letter denying your appeal.

To report a problem with your rights under the settlement, or to get more information about the settlement, call Mobilization for Justice at (877) 417 – 2427.

Disclaimer: This fact sheet provides general information for NYC residents; it is NOT legal advice.