

*Office of Darren Rafel, LCSW*

*1415 Venice Blvd. Venice CA 90291*

*201-341-9313 – [darrenrafel@gmail.com](mailto:darrenrafel@gmail.com)*

---

April 18, 2026

Emotional Support Animals for Luciann Mendez DOB 10/24/1995

To Whom It May Concern,

Luciann Mendez's mental health has been evaluated and reviewed. I am familiar with the patient's symptomology, history and limitations imposed by their disability.

Luciann Mendez has been diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and depression. This diagnosis substantially limits one or more of my patient's major life activities. This diagnosis meets the definition of disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 §504.

In order to help reduce impairment and alleviate difficulties as a result of Luciann Mendez's diagnosis, I am recommending emotional support animals to accompany them. Reasonable accommodations should be given to Luciann Mendez and they should be allowed to live with their emotional support animals. Luciann Mendez has two cats that each serve a distinct purpose in helping to alleviate mental health related symptoms in the conditions listed above. Oliver alleviates and can sense symptoms related to anxiety and Marble helps daily with depression.

This letter meets the legal requirements under the (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968)), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Pub. L. No. 93-112, 87 Stat. 394 (Sept. 26, 1973), codified at 29U.S.C. 5 701 et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, 104 Stat. 328 (1990). and The Department of Transportation (DOT) 14 CFR Part 382 "final order" (12/02/2020)

Any assessment of the appropriateness of the emotional support animal's behavior is beyond the scope of the practice of the evaluator. This assessment and accommodations are valid for one year from the date of issuance. The pet owner assumes all responsibility for the training, safety, cleanliness, health and conduct of their animals at all times.

Oliver, Cat, Domestic Mixed, 9 lbs.

Marble, Cat, Domestic Mixed, 10 lbs.

Sincerely,



Darren Rafel, LCSW TX License #109146 NPI #1629605142

--

