

*Office of Darren Rafel, LCSW*

*1415 Venice Blvd. Venice CA 90291*

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

---

April 28, 2026

Emotional Support Animal for BrandaNia Hines DOB 07/18/1997

To Whom It May Concern,

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

BrandaNia Hines has been diagnosed with a mental health condition recognized by the DSM-5 that involves symptoms relating to anxiety 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 BrandaNia Hines's diagnosis, I am recommending emotional support animal to accompany them. Reasonable accommodations should be given to BrandaNia Hines and they should be allowed to live with their emotional support animal.

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 29 U.S.C. 5701 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 animal at all times.

MJ, Dog, AmStaff, 80 lbs.

Sincerely,



Darren Rafel, LCSW IN License #34010324A NPI #1629605142

--