

Comments on proposed regulations published in Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 158, Number 51: Regulations Amending the Air Passenger Protection Regulations

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Objective

Could the section allowing seating next to a parent or guardian at no extra cost please be expanded to include passengers with neurological disabilities such as medically recognized autism who require assistance from a parent or guardian when travelling? This change would help to ensure more inclusive access to travel for patients with neurological disabilities. As an additional change to make air travel more accessible, in the case of passengers living with a permanent developmental disability, could the airlines please accept a single medical form that can be submitted to any Canadian carrier and which does not require an updated medical verification within 10 days of a flight. The Air Canada form is 5 pages long. The medical doctor charges \$50 per page (\$250 CDN) to sign the form. Paying the medical doctor eliminates the benefit of enabling a support person to fly with the disabled individual for the basic fare (excluding taxes). The additional problem is that Air Canada will only reduce the fare for an assistant if the form is completed by the doctor within 10 days of the flight. This means that a person with a disability who requires an assistant cannot prebook the flight to take advantage of space availability and potential fare savings. These requirements effectively discriminate against persons with disabilities. Thank you for considering these changes.
