

Guidelines for the encouraging of availability of assistive and alternate communication methods in Komatsu.

Komatsu City is committed toward fostering a kinder and more considerate living environment for everyone.

The average person is exposed to a large variety of information on a daily basis. They participate in multiple interactions, fostering mutual understanding and creating interpersonal relationships throughout their social and working lives. Komatsu City aspires toward affording all residents effective and proper communication channels in their daily needs.

For people with disabilities, assistive and alternate communication methods may include but are not limited to providing support in the following; sign languages, spoken language, text, braille, assistive reading and writing etc. It is crucial for Komatsu City to strive towards creating an environment where everyone is able to gain access to the necessary communication tools, or be able to convey their intentions in a timely and appropriate manner.

Henceforth, Komatsu City pledges to guarantee and expand the availability of assistive and alternate communication methods offered to people with disabilities and create equal opportunities for everyone living here. People with disabilities are fully deserving of our respect and dignity, and should be provided the means for such. These set of guidelines have been drafted as it is necessary for everyone, regardless of disability or lack thereof, to take a proactive stance in working towards creating a better and kinder society for each and every one living here.

(Objective)

- 1 Komatsu City (hereby referred to as “Komatsu” or “the City”) establishes that the communication needs of people with disabilities is a fundamental right. It is the duty of the City to make clear to all who work and live here that everyone, regardless of disability, has the right to proper communication in both their social and working

lives, and that they should play an active role in creating a more inclusive society.

(Definitions)

2            In this section, we define the meaning and appropriate usage of the words used in this document.

(1) People with Disabilities refers to persons who have physical, intellectual or psychological (including developmental) disorders, as well as patients suffering from intractable diseases, disorders, or ailments that have a detrimental effect on their physical and mental aptitude or faculties. For this document purposes, all of these will hereby be generally referred to as disabilities. It includes people with medically-declared disabilities, as well as people who face societal obstacles, or both continuous and intermittent restrictions to their day-to-day living.

(2) Communication Methods refer to the various methods of conveying and obtaining information as well as the necessary ways to facilitate reasonable conversation between various parties. These methods may include but are not limited to, sign language, spoken languages, written or illustrated means, braille, transliteration, large-print, writing or speaking on behalf, gestures, finger braille as well as plain language. Non-textual forms of communication, including diagrams, symbols/notations, photographs and illustrations etc. are also included.

(3) Due Consideration means ensuring that people with disabilities are afforded the same rights as people without disabilities throughout their social and working lives. This can be achieved by making the appropriate adjustments and modifications to existing circumstances and customs.

(4) Societal Obstacles refer to barriers and difficulties that one might encounter in their day-to-day lives as a result of their disabilities. These obstacles may arise through day-to-day living, encounters at organizations, customary practices, personal ideals etc.

(5) Residents are the people who currently live within the city limits, as well as people who work and study here.

(6) Business entities refer to individuals as well as corporate bodies who are currently conducting business activities within the city limits.

(Basic principles)

3 To build a society where each individual character and personality is respected, and there is mutual understanding between each person, especially people with and without disabilities.

3.2 To strive towards increasing as much as it is reasonably possible the amount of available options for communication methods specifically tailored toward circumventing the intricacies of the individual disability.

3.3 To aim for a mutually-supportive and inclusive society, where there is no discrimination between people with and without disabilities in regards to housing options.

(Responsibility of Komatsu City)

4 Based on the basic principles stipulated in the preceding items, Komatsu City takes the responsibility to push the guidelines specified in the following items.

(1) Foster greater understanding and universalize the availability of assistive and alternate communication methods offered to residents and business entities in Komatsu.

(2) Supporting residents and business entities in their offering of an appropriate level of consideration when interacting or assisting people with disabilities.

(3) Ensure the availability of opportunities to learn about the spectrum of available communication methods as well as opportunities for training and growth for providing support in this field.

(Role of Komatsu City)

5. In line with the preceding basic principles, each and every resident of Komatsu City should keep themselves educated on the matters pertaining to offering the appropriate type of communication method to circumvent the intricacies caused by the disability in daily life or in the working environment. They should also strive towards ensuring an appropriate level of consideration and assistance at all times.

(Role of business entities)

- 6 All business entities are to educate themselves on the preceding basic principles mentioned in this document, and apply them to their activities. In tandem with the city's guidelines, they are to make the necessary changes to ensure better support and consideration towards people with disabilities.

(Financial measures)

- 7 The city will be taking the necessary financial measures to implement and uphold the guidelines pertaining to the management of the preceding basic principles.

(Authorization)

- 8 Under the mayor's directive, the necessary matters concerning the enforcement and implementation of these guidelines will be listed separately.