

UNCRPD Articles Relevant to Appropriate Wheelchair Provision

| Article # | Title | Description |
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| 4 | General Obligation | <p>This article covers general obligations to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. Most relevant highlights of Article 4 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(g) To undertake or promote research and development of, and to promote the availability and use of new technologies, including information and communications technologies, mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, suitable for persons with disabilities, giving priority to technologies at an affordable cost. <li>(h) To provide accessible information to persons with disabilities about mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies, including new technologies, as well as other forms of assistance, support services and facilities. <li>(i) To promote the training of professionals and staff working with persons with disabilities in the rights recognized in this Convention so as to better provide the assistance and services guaranteed by those rights. |

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| 20 | Personal Mobility | <p>This article is the most relevant to wheelchair service provision, and it requires States Parties to take effective measures to ensure personal mobility with the greatest possible independence for persons with disabilities. They are required to do this by meeting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Facilitating the personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the manner and at the time of their choice, and at affordable cost; (b) Facilitating access by persons with disabilities to quality mobility aids, devices, assistive technologies and forms of live assistance and intermediaries, including by making them available at affordable cost; (c) Providing training in mobility skills to persons with disabilities and to specialist staff working with persons with disabilities; (d) Encouraging entities that produce mobility aids, devices and assistive technologies to take into account all aspects of mobility for persons with disabilities. |
| 26 | Habilitation and rehabilitation | <p>This Article includes the requirement that States Parties promote the availability, knowledge and use of assistive devices and technologies, designed for persons with disabilities, as they relate to habilitation and rehabilitation.</p> |
| 32 | International Cooperation | <p>Article 32 is relevant to wheelchair service provision in a broader sense as it promotes international cooperation in, for example, facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies.</p> |
| 19 | Living independently and being included in the community | <p>Having an appropriate wheelchair along with the requisite mobility skills facilitates access to these rights.</p> |
| 24 | Education | |

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| 25 | Health | |
| 27 | Work and employment | |
| 30 | Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport | |
| Indirectly related articles | | |
| 6 | Women with disabilities | Women often are marginalized in wheelchair provision, as their needs may not be seen as a priority in contexts and cultures where women generally are seen as less important. |
| 7 | Children with Disabilities | <p>Children with disabilities often will be carried rather than provided with a device due to the cost and inconvenience of obtaining one. The stigma surrounding disability in many contexts also results in caregivers preferring not to draw attention to their child with a disability. Transport challenges also discourage families from using wheelchairs or supportive seating.</p> <p>In many cases where wheelchairs are available, they will only be a one-size-fits-all wheelchair. This particularly marginalizes the needs of children --particularly those requiring more complex seating solutions.</p> |