



HARDSHIP CRITERIA RESPONSE:

The Florida Building Commission may grant waivers of Florida-specific accessibility requirements upon a determination of unnecessary, unreasonable or extreme hardship.

Please describe how this project meets the following hardship criteria.

Home was completely gutted and renovated, including electrical, plumbing, walls, flooring, etc. The bottom floor (grade level) of the home was completely remodeled and brought to code for handicap accessibility and handicap bathroom. This space serves as a conference/meeting room for handicap customers. The next floor up (split-level - 3-4' up) doesn't have any plumbing and also serves as the same to of conference/meeting room. Currently Sumter County Building Department will not give us a Certificate of Occupancy because they are stating that we need to build a ramp for a second entrance for handicap accessibility. We do not feel this is justifiable due to the expense and alteration of what is already existing and brand new, nor do we feel it benefits handicap customers, as we would have to ask them to go outside and down a ramp to enter back into the building to use the handicap bathroom and back outside and up the ramp to enter again, only 3-4' up from the previous conference/meeting room to meet in the same like room. We've drastically exceeded our budget to meet all the requirements necessary for a certificate of occupancy and to bring the property into compliance and do not feel the current request is logical, nor realistic. The request is unnecessary, unreasonable, and will put a significant financial hardship on us if required to complete. This does not consider the amount of time we've lost in dealing with this matter, which has also caused a financial strain to a newly formed small business. We are hopeful the Commission will see that we have gone to great lengths and costs to provide a safe environment to meet all the needs of the general public that we serve and grant us a waiver for vertical accessibility.

Sincerely,

Robert Shoemaker, *Owner*
Flamingo Real Estate & Management