

TBZ Membership for Adults with Special Needs

Temple Beth Zion (“TBZ”) shall institute a permanent membership policy that will offer full individual membership status to an adult with special needs who has an immediate relative that is a TBZ member. In such case, TBZ membership for the adult with special needs will be provided at no cost to the individual or the individual’s immediate relative/family.

Each adult member with special needs will benefit from full membership at TBZ with all the rights, benefits and privileges afforded to TBZ members in good standing without obligation to pay annual membership dues. This membership will renew automatically at the beginning of each TBZ fiscal year, extending beyond the death or resignation of the family members unless requested otherwise by the member’s family, legal guardian or designated caretaker).

This membership will not be offered to members who are currently affiliated as a member of one or more other synagogue congregations in the Greater Buffalo, NY area. Immediate family members of the member with special needs are required to be in good standing with TBZ, but not required to make any financial contribution for or on behalf of the member with special needs.

Definitions:

“Individuals with Special needs” is defined as individuals who have serious limitations in everyday activities of life, including self-care, communication, learning, mobility, or being able to work or live independently¹ resulting from developmental, intellectual or physical disabilities. As a result of these limitations the individual with special needs is prevented from being economically self-sufficient and therefore may qualify for significant government assistance.

“Affiliated membership” is defined as current membership or membership within one fiscal year of the application date for the adult with special needs unless a parent or immediate family has joined TBZ within the past 12 months of their own decision.

**Policy recommended by the Temple Beth Zion Membership Committee
Adopted by the Board of Trustees on March 18, 2014**

¹ National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities <http://www.nacdd.org>