



Bolingbrook

a place to grow

May 8, 2025

Mary S. Alexander-Basta
Mayor

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is intended to provide insight into the Village of Bolingbrook Visitability Ordinance and provide testimony to its continued success.

Martha M. Barton
Village Clerk

The Village of Bolingbrook, a diverse community of 74,000 people located 30 miles southwest of Chicago, Illinois, developed a draft of its Visitability Code in 1999 after months of research and meetings with architects, builders, developers, and residents with disabilities. The intent was to develop a building code that would provide for basic accessibility to detached and attached single-family homes for disabled persons visiting neighbors, family, and friends. Additional focus was placed on the needs of our aging baby boomer population and incorporating adaptable features that would allow them to stay in their homes as they aged.

Michael T. Lawler
Deputy Mayor
&
Village Trustee

The Visitability Code was formally adopted by ordinance in 2003, however, the Village received voluntary compliance from home builders starting in 1999 when the code was first developed. To date, there are over 4,600 homes incorporating visitability features including no-step entrances, wider doorway and hallways, raised electrical receptacles and lowered light switches, blocking installed in bathroom walls to support grab bars (if the owner so chooses to install them), and bathrooms that are large enough to accommodate wheelchair access.

Village Trustees
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Initially home builders resisted these changes based on anticipated construction cost increases. Once the first few homes incorporating Visitability features were constructed, it became evident that with proper planning, the cost would be negligible. In fact, we find that homes with Visitability features are more marketable. Consumer feedback has been overwhelming positive and those not seeking such features do not even notice the changes. Additionally, the no-step entrances have no cost impact on homes with basements, and when the inset foundation design is used, it greatly reduces the pitch of the exterior approach. (A diagram of the inset foundation is attached with this letter).

Village Attorney
Odelson •
Murphey • Frazier •
McGrath, LTD.

The Village of Bolingbrook no longer receives resistance from home builders and there have been no additional costs to the Village associated with the implementation of the Visitability Ordinance. Incorporating accessible and adaptable features into the design of single-family homes is a timely idea that simply makes sense.

Sincerely,

Village of Bolingbrook


Mary S. Alexander-Basta
Mayor


Steven Touloumis
Building Commissioner



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Village of Bolingbrook
 Visitability Code
 Foundation w/Inset Floor Ledge Diagram Examples

