

ADA.gov ^{BETA}

We're working on a new ADA.gov.

[Visit the beta site →](#)



Information and Technical Assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act

Search ADA.gov

go

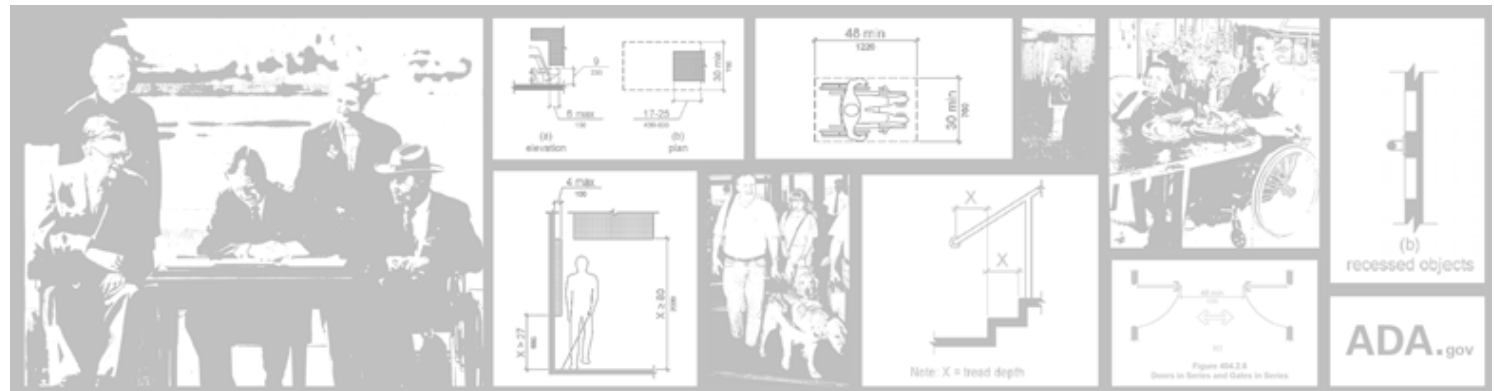
[More Search Options](#)

[Law / Regulations](#)

[Design Standards](#)

[Technical Assistance Materials](#)

[Enforcement](#)



Introduction to the ADA

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush. The ADA is one of America's most comprehensive pieces of civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination and guarantees that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else to

participate in the mainstream of American life -- to enjoy employment opportunities, to purchase goods and services, and to participate in State and local government programs and services. Modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin – and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- the ADA is an "equal opportunity" law for people with disabilities.

To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability, which is defined by the ADA as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment. The ADA does not specifically name all of the impairments that are covered.

Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended

The text of the law

Title II Regulations

The Department of Justice regulations that implement the ADA for state and local governments

Title III Regulations

The Department of Justice regulations that implement the ADA for businesses and non-profit service providers

ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Enforceable standards under Titles II and III for new construction, alterations, program accessibility, and barrier removal.

Regulations Under Development

Find out more about any new regulations proposed by the Department as well as the Department's ADA Regulatory Agenda.

Guide to Disability Rights Laws | En Español

Find out more about the ADA and other laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities.

ADA Technical Assistance Materials

Information about the ADA and how to comply with the law

Department of Justice ADA Responsibilities

The Department's Disability Rights Section protects the rights of people with disabilities.

Federal and ADA Disability Resources

ADA responsibilities of Federal agencies outside of the Department and other resources for people with disabilities

ADA Signing Ceremony

Watch the video of the 1990 ADA signing ceremony.

File an ADA Complaint

If you believe you have been discriminated against on the basis of disability, file a complaint under the ADA.

Topics of Interest on ADA.gov and Search Page for the ADA

Information about the ADA on this website.

En Español

If you have questions about the ADA and want to talk to an Department of Justice ADA Information Specialist, go to [ADA Information Line](#) for the Department's toll-free telephone numbers and times of operation.

Selected Topics

Olmstead
HIV and AIDS
Employment
Barrier-Free Healthcare Initiative
Regulatory Development
Project Civic Access
ADA Business Connection

Resources

Federal ADA & Section 504 Resources
Reports & Updates
ADA.gov Archive

Titles of the ADA

Employment (title I)
State & Local Government (title II)
Public Accommodations and
Commercial Facilities (title III)

Department of Justice ADA Responsibilities

Technical Assistance
Enforcement
Mediation
Regulations
Certification of State and Local Building Codes



[Sign Up for Email Updates](#)

Site Map

Contact Us

Department of Justice Links

Department of Justice Home Page
Civil Rights Division Home Page
Disability Rights Section Home Page
Freedom of Information Act
En Español
Privacy Policy

