

The Americans with Disabilities Act: What does it Mean?

Transition Skills, Tips & Tools
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



1. **The ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.**
2. **Disability law was created to protect and give equal opportunity to pursue school, work and recreation and make public spaces, programs, and services accessible.**
3. The **areas that are affected by the ADA** include employment, public services (schools), public accommodations, services run by private entities and telecommunications.
4. **To be protected by the ADA, one must have a disability or have a relationship or association with an individual with a disability.** The ADA defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.
5. Your rights include:
 - The removal of barriers to buildings.
 - Employers must make reasonable accommodations and equal opportunity to the full range of employment-related opportunities available to others
 - State and local governments provide equal opportunity to benefit from all of their programs, services, and activities (e.g. public education, employment, transportation, recreation, health care, social services, courts, voting, and town meetings).
 - Modifications must be made so everyone can enjoy public accommodations and all new construction must be made accessible .
 - Readily-accessible transportation for people with disabilities (Para-transit services) must be provided whenever possible.
 - If places like hotels offer transportation, they must offer equal transportation to people with disabilities.
 - Telephone companies must offer services to people using telecommunication devices for the deaf (TTY).

6. Want more information?

Call the **Illinois ADA Project** at (877) 232-3601 (Voice) | (800) 610-2779 (TTY) | or visit online: www.ada-il.org/.

Guide to disability law at www.ada.gov/cguide.htm.

Great Lakes ADA Center, www.adagreatlakes.org/ provides information, materials, technical assistance and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

We're here to help.

To learn more about the Division of Specialized Care for Children's programs and services, check out our website at: dsc.uic.edu

