



ROCKY MOUNTAIN

ADA CENTER

Operated by:



Rocky Mountain Access

July 2016

The *Rocky Mountain Access* is a free monthly online newsletter with current accessibility information for the Rocky Mountain region that includes Wyoming, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Colorado. Subscription also includes timely updates throughout the month.



Happy Independence Day - USA and Happy Anniversary - Americans with Disabilities Act!

[Disability Statistics](#)

This [Facts for Features](#) provides a demographic snapshot of the U.S. population with a disability and examines various services available to them. The statistics come from various Census Bureau censuses and surveys, covering differing periods of time.



[National Disability Voter Registration Week](#)

[July 11-15, 2016](#)

The REV UP Campaign is coordinating a National Disability Voter Registration Week to increase the political power of people with disabilities while also engaging candidates and the media to recognize the disability community. If your state or city will be declaring July 11-15, 2016 declared as National Disability Voter Registration Week please let AAPD know by emailing communications@aapd.com.

[Rocky Mountain ADA Center Offering Free Disability Etiquette Courses](#)

(*FOX21News.com*) More than 59 million Americans have some kind of disability yet many people are unaware of proper etiquette when it comes to interacting with the disabled community, which happens to be the largest minority group in the country. The Rocky Mountain ADA Center is hoping to change that by offering two free online courses on disability etiquette.

[Department of Justice Publishes Updated Checklist for Polling Places](#)

The Department of Justice has released an updated technical assistance publication on polling place accessibility for voters with disabilities. The publication, "ADA Checklist for Polling Places," includes a survey

to guide election officials in evaluating the accessibility of facilities used or being considered for use as polling places. It is available in [PDF](#) (15 pages) and [HTML](#) versions.

[Next Installment of Online Guide for the ADA and ABA Standards](#)

The U.S. Access Board has released the next installment of its online guide to accessibility standards issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). The new material, which covers

Chapter 5 of the standards, features an animation and technical bulletins on accessible parking and passenger loading zones. It also includes a technical bulletin on stairways. This guidance clarifies and illustrates provisions in the standards, answers frequently asked questions, and offers best practice recommendations.



[NCD Issues Brochure on Prescription Drug Labeling](#)



The National Council on Disability (NCD) has issued a brochure on best practices for making prescription drug container labels accessible to people with vision impairments or who are elderly.

The [new brochure](#) outlines voluntary methods that pharmacists can use to provide access to drug label information for their customers. These include braille and large print, as well as newer technologies such as digital voice or text-to-speech recorders, radio frequency identification tags, and smart devices and computers. The brochure also provides best practices to follow with these formats, such as maintaining patient privacy in preparing labels and selecting containers that best support the type of accessible label provided.

This guidance is advisory only and is not mandatory.

[EEOC Releases Sample ADA Notice for Employee Wellness Programs](#)

New rules from the EEOC published on May 17, 2016, require employers that offer wellness programs that collect employee health information to provide a notice to employees informing them what information will be collected, how it will be used, who will receive it, and what will be done to keep it confidential. The EEOC has now published a [sample notice](#) to help employers comply with the ADA, along with a series of frequently asked questions ([FAQs](#)).

[New from PepNet2](#)



[Fast Facts: Deaf Community](#)

It often comes as a surprise to people that many individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing refer to themselves as being members of the Deaf community and ascribe to Deaf culture. These individuals view themselves as a unique cultural and linguistic minority who use sign language as their primary language. The characteristics of Deaf culture are formed out of many shared life experiences rooted in a visual world designed for communication ease.

[Fast Facts: Visual Fire Alarms](#)

In today's world, emergency preparedness is an important topic. Too often, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing do not have access to emergency alerts. Visual emergency alerting systems provide equal access and allow people who are deaf or hard of hearing to evacuate safely during emergencies. Both the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act also mandate reasonable accommodations, which include visual fire alarms.

[Colorado's New Pregnancy Accommodation Law](#)

(*Lexology*) Effective August 10, 2016, Colorado employers will be required to provide job applicants and employees with reasonable accommodations for pregnancy and physical recovery from childbirth. An employer only has to provide an accommodation if requested and if the accommodation would not impose an undue hardship. The intent of this legislation (House Bill 1438) is "to combat pregnancy discrimination, promote public health, and ensure full and equal protection for women in the labor force by requiring employers to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related condition." An employer who violates the requirement to provide a reasonable accommodation commits an unfair or discriminatory practice.

Similar to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), once an applicant or employee requests an accommodation related to pregnancy, the employer must engage in a “timely, good faith, interactive process to determine effective, reasonable accommodations.”

[Deaf Woman Sues North Dakota Courts and Police for Discrimination](#)

Christine Stein was wrongfully arrested and jailed after calling 9-1-1 to seek help from law enforcement, because she is deaf. Stein repeatedly requested that law enforcement, jail personnel, and the court system provide sign lan

guage interpreters so that she could communicate effectively but all of these entities denied her requests. Without ever being provided with an opportunity to make a call to her employer or her loved ones, Stein was held in solitary confinement and then forced to appear in court without any means of communication.



[Judgment In Favor Of EEOC in Disability and Genetic Discrimination Case](#)

A federal judge ruled in favor of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) on June 8, 2016 that a Mountain Grove, Mo., farm violated two federal laws by requiring all job applicants to fill out a health history before they would be considered for a job. According to EEOC's lawsuit, a retired law enforcement officer who sought employment, was told by the company that if he did not fully complete and submit a three-page health history form with his application, he would not be considered for any job.

Such alleged conduct violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because it requested information that could cause an applicant to identify himself or herself as a person with a disability. It also violated the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), which prohibits employers from requesting or requiring genetic information, including medical histories from applicants, except in limited circumstances.

[Service Dog Case Headed To Supreme Court](#)

(Disabilityscoop) The U.S. Supreme Court will consider the case of a 12-year-old with cerebral palsy whose family sued after school officials tried to bar the girl from bringing her service dog to class.

[Supreme Court to Hear Case of Deaf Texans Seeking Interpreter](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide a case brought by would-be drivers seeking a sign-language interpreter for driver-education classes. At issue is whether the Texas Education Agency and the private company the Agency contracted with had dual obligations to accommodate [sic] deaf students.

[Utah School District Reaches Settlement on Website Accessibility Violations](#)

The Granite School District has reached a settlement with the U.S. Department of Education to improve its website's accessibility to people with disabilities, federal authorities announced. The Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights said it received a complaint, leading to the examination of the school district's website. The website lacked text descriptions that detail important images to blind and low-vision users, the department's Office for Civil Rights said in a statement. The school district's agreement promises a thorough look at current practices and preempts a more comprehensive federal investigation of the website if it meets certain accessibility requirements within the next 18 months.

Please Take My
Survey

Your Input is Needed!

Looking for Research Participants who Have Lived in Nursing Homes

The University of Illinois at Chicago is conducting a study with people with disabilities to identify and address participation disparities among people with disabilities. Currently, we are collaborating with six Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Centers across the nation to learn about participation disparities experienced by people with disabilities who moved out of nursing homes.

We are looking for people with disabilities to help us with the study. Participants will be asked to be part of one 90-minute interview to talk about their experience with living in the community after transitioning out of institutions.

If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact the Rocky Mountain ADA Center at 719-444-0268. Please mention that you are interested in the "Olmstead Study."

In order to participate, you must meet the following criteria:

- Have a disability as defined by the ADA
- Have lived in an institution (e.g., public nursing home, institution for mental disease, intermediate care facility, or large group home)
- Age 18-65 currently or at the time of moving out of an institution
- Currently close to moving out of an institution OR have transitioned out of an institution within past the 5 years



All participants will receive a \$25 gift card for completing the interview.

Principal Investigator: Joy Hammel, PhD, OTR/L

Transportation Access and Experiences Survey

You are invited to participate in a national survey titled *Transportation Access and Experiences*, which is designed to improve understanding of accessibility of public transportation for people with disabilities. This survey is being conducted by the [ADA Participation Action Research Consortium \(ADA-PARC\)](#), a collaborative research project of ADA Regional Centers (PIs: Lex Frieden and Joy Hammel). This project focuses on community living, community participation & work/economic participation disparities of people with disabilities. We would like to improve our understanding on transportation access of people with disabilities and use this information to make improvements at regional and national levels.

We are very interested in receiving as many responses as possible from people with disabilities based on their personal experiences with public transportation. The results will serve as crucial evidence to support improvements to accessible transportation. Please use the link below to access and complete the survey. The online survey can be completed in English or Spanish. This is the second round of data collection for this survey, so if you have already completed it, please do not complete the survey again.

If you would like to complete the survey by phone in English, please contact the research team at 312-996-9655. If you would like to complete the survey by phone in Spanish, please contact Ancel Montenelli at 312-413-1439. Please mention that you are calling about the ADA transportation survey.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Jill Bezyak from the Rocky Mountain ADA Center at jill.bezyak@unco.edu.

https://unco.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_00wcGeTOzGL2lQ9

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[ADA Audio Conference Series Session](#)

ADA Anniversary Update: Celebrating 26 Years

Date: Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Time: 12-1:30pm MT

Just us for this annual ADA Anniversary Update from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Representatives will provide updates on current enforcement activities as well as any new activities.

Continuing Education Recognition: Certificate of Attendance
Registration: Free via webinar platform, fee for telephone access
This session will offer Real-Time Captioning via the webinar platform
Questions should be directed to 877-232-1990 V/TTY or via [email](#).

JAN Monthly Webcasts

Webcasts begin at 2 pm Mountain and are 1 hour long.

July 26, 2016 (Rescheduled from July 12). ADA Update

Join the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and JAN as representatives provided participants with the latest developments in the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the workplace, some practical tips for compliance, and answers to tough ADA questions.

Speakers: Jeanne Goldberg, Senior Attorney Advisor, Office of Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Linda Carter Batiste, J.D., JAN Principal Consultant, moderating.

August 9, 2016. Best Practices - Details Forthcoming

ADA Coordinator Mini-Camps

Fargo, ND

Jul 26 @ 9:00 am - Jul 27 @ 5:00 pm

Helena, MT

Aug 17 @ 9:00 am - Aug 18 @ 5:00 pm

Casper, WY

Aug 24 @ 9:00 am - Aug 25 @ 5:00 pm

About the Rocky Mountain ADA Center...

The Rocky Mountain ADA Center is owned and operated by [Meeting the Challenge, Inc.](#), and is supported by grant #H133A110018 from the [National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research](#). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Rocky Mountain ADA Center is a part of the [ADA National Network](#) which consists of 10 regional centers and an ADA Knowledge Translation Center.

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Rocky Mountain ADA Center
(NEW URL!)

www.RockyMountainADA.org

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