



## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

### Introduction and History

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is known as the “equal opportunity” law for individuals who have disabilities. It was passed and signed into law by George H.W. Bush on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1990. Previously, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 did not protect people from discrimination based on disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act was modeled after the Civil Rights Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



### Sections

Titles 1-3 are the most pertinent to daily life. Titles 4 and 5 cover miscellaneous provisions, some transportation issues, and communication.

- **Title 1** Protections in employment settings
- **Title 2** Protections in public places (government run)
- **Title 3** Protections in private places (non-government run)

### How does it help me?

The ADA can be very helpful in protecting people who have disabilities against discrimination, whether they are in college, community college, employment, or in the community. The ADA makes sure that public and private places are accessible and that everyone can enjoy the services and activities that the community offers. When you are in college or community college, or even at work or in the community, your IEP does not entitle you to accommodations, but the ADA helps to make sure your rights are protected!

### What do I do if I have an ADA issue?



- Call the ADA Technical Assistance Center: 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY). You can also learn how to file a complaint when you call the Technical Assistance Line.
- Contact the disABILITY Law Center of Virginia: 800-552-3962 or [info@dlcv.org](mailto:info@dlcv.org).



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