



ADA TODAY



Newsletter

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Temporary Enforcement Protocol Now in Place for Parking for Persons with Disabilities

Based on the 90-day emergency legislation passed by D.C. Council on Tuesday, March 20, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has temporarily halted the enforcement protocol it had set for the Red Top Meter program.

Effective today, the following enforcement protocol will be followed by DDOT and the Department of Public Works (DPW):

- Vehicles displaying a valid disability placard or license plate may park at **all meters** without paying. These motorists may park for up to twice the amount of time allowed by the meter.
- Even vehicles displaying disability placards or plates are not permitted to park in metered spaces indefinitely and may be ticketed for exceeding the applicable time limit (twice the time for that block face).
- Motorists that do not display a valid disability placard or license tags may park at any metered space, including Red Top meters, provided they pay the established meter rate.

For additional information about parking for persons with disabilities please contact the DDOT customer service line at 202-673-6813.

Office of Disability Rights for the DC Government Video

The DC Office of Disability Rights (ODR) has created an informational video introduction to our office. This video is designed to provide a concise, accessible explanation of our office and its mission and functions. To view the video, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmatfyU2oNU>.

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.

District of Columbia residents, visitors and District of Columbia government employees with disabilities are protected by a number of laws and regulations. On our website you will find links to federal and District civil rights laws and regulations that ensure equal opportunity for people with disabilities. To find out more about how these laws and regulations may apply to you, please contact ODR at (202) 724-5055. You may also visit our website to view the video and access other informational materials at www.odr.dc.gov

ODR Special Assistant Christina Mitchell



Christina Mitchell has been with the Office of Disability Rights (ODR) since August 2008 as our Special Assistant to the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD). In this role, she is responsible for the legislated duties required for the maintenance of the DCCPD. She convenes monthly meetings and designs multiple projects on behalf of the DCCPD. For the last three years, Ms. Mitchell has successfully spearheaded the Mayor's Annual Disability Awareness conference, on behalf of the DCCPD, ODR, Office of Human Rights, Office of Aging, Department of Disability Services, and other DC agencies. This event takes place every October during Disability Employment Awareness Month. Starting next month, Ms. Mitchell will begin planning for this year's Mayor Annual Disability Awareness conference. She invites all DC agencies who are interested in participating or contributing to this event to contact her.

Ms. Mitchell is currently working on a Healthcare Community Forum to be held June 16th at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. In addition to her responsibility to the DCCPD, she also provides ADA training to DC government employees. Finally, Ms. Mitchell acts as the supervisor and coordinator of the ODR's Summer Youth Employment Program. ODR is proud of the contributions that Ms. Mitchell makes to the success of our office.

Upcoming Events

Disability Policy Seminar

Conference

Date: April 23, 2012 - April 25, 2012

Location: Washington, DC

Website: <http://www.thearc.org/Page.aspx?pid=2173>

Abstract: Hosted by the Arc of the United States and held in Washington, DC, this annual conference agenda of those in the movement for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is a forum for the exchange of information about issues and preparing for face-to-face meetings with elected officials on Capitol Hill. From self-advocates to family members, caregivers, and organizations serving individuals with I/DD, this is a large bloc of advocates who have the potential to change how the government views and interacts with people with disabilities.

TECH "EE" TALK

Date: April 28, 2012 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Expo

Location: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library 901 G Street, NW, Washington, DC.

A citywide Assistive Technology Expo for Intellectual Disabilities ~ Free and Open to All Ages

LEARN! • EMPOWER! • SUCCEED! Hands on: Droid...PC...iPAD...Apps...Gaming ~ Sensory Story Times and Crafts for Kids ~ Expert Assistive Technology Exhibitors ~ Keynote speakers: Watch for details! Register at: www.techeetalk.eventbrite.com. For more info check: www.dclibrary.org/services/lbph or contact: info: fvdc@familyvoicesofdc.org. Sponsors: Family Voices of the District of Columbia, DC Assistive Technology Program, DC Public Library and DC Developmental Disabilities Council.

2012 National Transition Conference: College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities

Conference

Date: May 30, 2012 - June 1, 2012

Location: Washington, DC

Website: <http://www.transition2012.org/>

Abstract: The National Transition Conference: College and Careers for Youth with Disabilities will provide a forum for developing an action agenda, bring together partners in the transition community to exchange ideas and approaches, share knowledge gained from policy implementation, discuss transition practices and research findings, and promote the development of networks and relationships. It will bring together youth and young adults, family members/advocates/caregivers, educators, vocational rehabilitation professionals, employment and training professionals, researchers, state and federal officials, leaders in the transition community, disability service staff, student development personnel, and behavioral health professionals.

Federal News

White House Champions of Change: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for people with disabilities

The White House Office of Public Engagement <http://www.whitehouse.gov/engage>, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Education are partnering to highlight individuals doing great work to increase STEM opportunities in education and employment and we need your help in finding those Champions! **Can you reach out to your colleagues and partners to help us identify Champions across the country? To nominate a champion, follow this link:** <http://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/white-house-champions-change-science-technology-engineering-and-math-stem-people-disabilities> Feel free to post this information or the nomination link on your website, in emails or any other way. Submissions may be submitted immediately through the deadline of midnight on April 7. We appreciate your help in finding great stories from around the country.

Compliance Extension for Existing Pools

On Thursday, March 15, 2012, Attorney General Eric Holder signed a final rule extending the date for compliance with sections 242 and 1009 of the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design as it relates to the provision of accessible entry and exit to existing swimming pools, wading pools, and spas for a period of 60 days after the publication of the rule in the Federal Register. On that same day, the Attorney General also signed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking public comment on whether a longer period of time would be appropriate to allow pool owners and operators to meet their compliance obligations. Specifically, the NPRM proposes a 180-day extension of the deadline. [Final Rule: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities; Swimming Pools \(HTML\)](#)

Adams Jeep of Maryland to Pay \$50,000 to Settle EEOC Disability Discrimination Lawsuit ***Auto Dealership Harassed and Fired Worker Because of Bipolarism, Agency Charged***

BALTIMORE – An Aberdeen, Md., auto dealership will pay \$50,000 and furnish other remedial relief to settle a disability discrimination and harassment lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the agency announced today.

According to EEOC's suit, Adams Jeep of Maryland, Inc., engaged in unlawful discrimination when it denied a reasonable accommodation to Amy Smith shortly after she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and because of her record of disability. Further, the EEOC said, the company subjected her to harassment and fired her.

Smith had been employed since October 2009 as a telephone operator and promoted to an accounts payable/receivables position, when she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in or around March 2010. After Smith disclosed her disorder to the office manager and assistant manager, she was subjected to epithets such as "pill popper" and "psycho." While out on a medical leave of absence and under a doctor's care, Smith was fired.

For full story click her: <http://eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/3-23-12.cfm>

EEOC Sues Owner of Golden LivingCenter – Dartmouth for Disability Discrimination
Nursing Facility Fired Employee Because of Her Disability, Federal Agency Charges

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – GGNSC Charlotte Renaissance LLC, a Delaware corporation that operates Golden Living Center-Dartmouth in Charlotte, N.C., discriminated against an employee with a disability and then unlawfully fired her, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in a lawsuit it filed today. Golden Living operates a nursing facility that provides care to individuals who are ill, physically and mentally disabled, and elderly. For full ruling click here:

<http://www1.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/3-19-12.cfm>

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.



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MISSION STATEMENT

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