



# ADA TODAY



## Newsletter

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### Accessible Pools Means of Entry and Exit

The Department of Justice published revised final regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for title II (State and local government services) and title III (public accommodations and commercial facilities) on September 15, 2010, in the Federal Register. These requirements, or rules, clarify and refine issues that have arisen over the past 20 years and contain new, and updated, requirements, including the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design ("2010 Standards").

#### Overview

**Providing equal opportunity to people with disabilities is the fundamental principle of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication is designed to help title II and title III entities understand how new requirements for swimming pools, especially existing pools, apply to them.**

People with disabilities were, for too long, excluded from participating in many recreational activities, including swimming. The revised 2010 Standards change that. For the first time, the 2010 Standards set minimum requirements for making swimming pools, wading pools, and spas (pools) accessible. Newly constructed and altered pools must meet these requirements. Public entities and public accommodations also have obligations with respect to existing pools. State and local governments must make recreational programs and services, including swimming pool programs, accessible to people with disabilities. Public accommodations must bring existing pools into compliance with the 2010 Standards to the extent that it is readily achievable to do so.

The requirements for newly constructed and existing pools will ensure that, going forward, people with disabilities can enjoy the same activities—a community swim meet; private swim lessons; a hotel pool—at the same locations and with the same independence, ease, and convenience as everyone else. The 2010 Standards establish two categories of pools: large pools with more than 300 linear feet of pool wall and smaller pools with less than 300 linear feet of wall. Large pools must have two accessible means of entry, with at least one being a pool lift or sloped entry; smaller pools are only required to have one accessible means of entry, provided that it is either a pool lift or a sloped entry.

There are a limited number of exceptions to the requirements. One applies to multiple spas provided in a cluster. A second applies to wave pools, lazy rivers, sand bottom pools, and other pools that have only one point of entry. For more information on the specific requirements and exceptions, see sections 242 and 1009 of the 2010 Standards. Read More at [http://www.ada.gov/pools\\_2010.htm](http://www.ada.gov/pools_2010.htm)

## Upcoming Events

**June 4th at 10 pm**

### **PUSH GIRLS Debuts on The Sundance Channel**

**PUSH GIRLS**, the audacious new docu-series debuts Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm on The Sundance Channel is created by Gay Rosenthal Productions (Little People, Big World). **PUSH GIRLS** tracks four dynamic women with acquired mobility disabilities (shattering myths about women with disabilities in the process), as they each tackle life's stages:

- Angela is a fashion model recently separated from her husband.
- Auti is a performer and hip-hop dancer, trying to conceive a baby at age 42.
- Mia is former competitive swimmer pursuing her goal to re-learn how to swim since her disability in high school, and is dating a non-disabled guy.
- Tiphany is exploring her career aspirations as well as her sexuality.

Check out **PUSH GIRLS**: <http://www.sundancechannel.com/push-girls/>. Through the lives of these strong, beautiful, proactive female “roll” models, **PUSH GIRLS** gives the disability community a powerful, unprecedented national platform to speak about issues important to people with disabilities – sexuality, femininity, disability culture, power, pride and identity – and is sure to generate a tidal wave of discussion, debate, dialogue and buzz in circles with – and without – disabilities.

This weekend, **PUSH GIRLS** was featured in The New York

Times <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/arts/television/push-girls-on-sundance-looks-at-disabled-women.html>

**PUSH GIRLS** is perfect to spark disability-inclusive diversity dialogue in classrooms, boardrooms, and in the workplace with disability and diversity employee resource groups (ERGs) and allies as a ramp up to October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month and its theme, "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

Join the groundswell: We encourage you to “like” **PUSH GIRLS** on Facebook, follow the fearless females on Twitter (@PushGirls), and of course, watch the show.

**Jun 11th, 2012 - Jun 14th, 2012**

### **2012 Annual Conference on Independent Living**

[Event Details](#) ~ Washington, DC

Sponsor: National Council on Independent Living

Venue: in-person meetings

**June 15, 2012**

### **Public Hearing Reminder**

The Department on Disability Services requests your participation at its' Public Hearing for the State Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program and State Supplement for the State Supported Employment Services Program on Friday, June 15, 2012.

The Public Hearing will take place at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in the Jackson Graham Building located at 600 5<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC 20001.

Additional information is provided by the attached copy of the Department on Disability Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration Public Hearing Announcement. The link below provides access to FY'13 DDS RSA State Plan attachments for consideration.

<http://dds.dc.gov/DC/DDS/About+DDS/News+Room/Press+Releases/DRAFT+RSA+2013+State+Plan>

**DSM-V Proposals Modify Diagnosis for Autism Spectrum Disorder and Intellectual Developmental Disorder, Create New Category of Communication Disorders. Comment period ends June 15th.**

In anticipation of its DSM-V, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) is seeking comments on draft definitions and criteria for new or revised diagnostic categories that it is in the process of considering. The proposed revisions may be found at <http://www.dsm5.org/ProposedRevision/Pages/NeurodevelopmentalDisorders.aspx>.

APA has sought comments on draft criteria for a number of diagnostic categories, including a proposed revision to the category “mental retardation” that is slated to be modified in name and criteria to become “intellectual developmental disorder” in the fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on Mental Disorders* (DSM-5), anticipated to be published in May of 2013. Proposals for the DSM-V include many changes to neurodevelopmental disorders. The proposal is for all four Pervasive Developmental Disorders (Autism, Asperger Syndrome, Rett’s Syndrome and Childhood Disintegration Disorder) to be merged into Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). People who are diagnosed with ASD under the new DSM-V criteria must exhibit disability in both social (verbal or non-verbal) communication and social interaction. The new diagnosis would also require people to exhibit two restrictive behavior, repetitive behavior or sensory integration symptoms. An age limit is also added, requiring that ASD symptoms must be present in early childhood, but they can manifest as a disability later in life. Under the proposed DSM-V, a person can be given a joint diagnosis of ADHD and ASD, which is not possible in the DSM-IV.

Under the proposed DSM-V, the old term “mental retardation” would become intellectual development disorder. This week, the APA issued new guidelines for intellectual development disorder, requiring that individuals who meet the diagnosis be approximately two standard deviations below the population mean. While IQ will still be a factor for consideration in the diagnosis, the APA suggests use of a more inclusive cognitive profile, but does not elaborate on what a “cognitive profile” is. IQ-based subtypes are proposed to be eliminated by the DSM-V, and replaced by severity levels described by examples of behavior.

Three types of communication disorders are also suggested to be newly included in the DSM-V. These include Language Disorder, Speech Disorder, and Social Communication Disorder.

For more information, contact Peggy Hathaway, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Manager, [phathaway@nacdd.org](mailto:phathaway@nacdd.org).

**June 21/22**

**The National Veterans Center is partnering with the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County to offer a two day seminar in June to help our veterans**

*The seminar will focus on Mental Health First Aid training, which aims to increase mental health literacy, to decrease stigmatizing attitudes in our communities and to increase appropriate and early help-seeking by people with mental health problems. Attached is information regarding our **free** 12 hour Mental Health First Aid training. We are currently seeking participants for the June 21/22 training at the National Veterans Center in DC. Class times are 9am-3pm, space is limited. Typically the course cost is \$119. **This training is free to anyone who is military/veteran, family caregiver of a vet, or works with military/veteran. Food and drinks will also be provided for the seminar as well.** For more information visit: [www.mhamc.org](http://www.mhamc.org)*

**Jun 27th, 2012 - Jun 29th, 2012**  
**APSE 2012 National Conference**

Event Details ~ Arlington, VA

Sponsor: Association for Persons in Supported Employment

Venue: in-person meetings

**June 18, 2012**

**Contemporary Practices in Early Childhood Intervention**

NATIONAL 4-H Youth Conference Center 7100 Connecticut Ave Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**Conference Partners**

- Georgetown University, Center for Child and Human Development, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- Strong Start: District of Columbia's Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities Program
- District of Columbia Developmental Disabilities Council
- University Legal Services, Protection and Advocacy Services of the District of Columbia
- Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities

**Purpose**

Contemporary Practices in Early Childhood Intervention will provide early intervention providers, child care providers, and families with information on what is considered best practice in services for infants and toddlers with disabilities. [Click here for the Agenda](#) or go to

<http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/training/June%202012%20Agenda.pdf>

**June 26, 2012**

**Sections 503 and 508 Of the Rehabilitation Act: What Government Vendors Need to Know**

About: This webinar covers one of the key questions we receive here at SSB BART Group - How do I determine if a system is 508 compliant?

Time: 2:00pm EDT / 11:00am PDT Tel: (800) 889-9659 [Email SSB BART Group](#)

**July 22-27, 2012**

**XIX International AIDS Conference "AIDS 2012" Turning the Tide Together**

The District will proudly host AIDS 2012: XIX International Conference on AIDS this July. This will be the first time in more than 20 years that this important gathering will take place in the United States. The conference will be held from July 22-27, 2012, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. [To the Conference website](#)

**Federal News**

**Disability Employment App Challenge**

The Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy has launched its first disability-related application challenge. In announcing the challenge, Assistant Secretary Kathy Martinez said that "using today's technology, we hope to inspire creative and innovative solutions to the pressing employment-related problems faced by people with disabilities." The goal of the app challenge is to promote recruitment resources for employers, develop job training and skill-building tools for job seekers, facilitate employment-related transportation options, and expand Information Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility. Awards will be given to the top three submissions, including the Innovation Award for grand prize, the People's Choice Award for second prize, and the Above and Beyond Accessibility Award for third prize. The winners will be featured prominently on ODEP's website, Disability.gov, and through other public outreach vehicles. Learn more about the challenge on the Challenge.Gov website: <http://disability.challenge.gov/>

**HUD, PUERTO RICO CONDO ASSOCIATION REACH \$1 MILLION DISCRIMINATION SETTLEMENT CALLING FOR EXTENSIVE REPAIRS** *Inoperative elevators in high-rise towers harmed disabled resident*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced today that it has reached an agreement valued at \$1 million with Condominium Association Isleta Marina in Puerto Real, Puerto Rico, settling allegations that the property's inoperative elevators violated the federal Fair Housing Act based on disability. The resident who filed the complaint with HUD alleged that because of the non-

working elevators, she was forced to climb up and down four flights of stairs when leaving and returning to her home, aggravating her mobility disability: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD>

### **HUD Makes Available \$85 Million to Fund Housing for Extremely Low-Income Persons with Disabilities**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development makes \$85 million available to state housing agencies to provide affordable supportive housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities. This is the first time in the history of HUD's Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program that funding will be offered to state housing agencies that meet new eligibility criteria, including having a partnership with a state health and human services and Medicaid agency to provide essential support and services. [Read the HUD press release](#)

### **Disability.gov Blog on 'A Look behind the Scenes — Part III: Website Accessibility Isn't an Exact Science'**

This is the third post in a multi-part series written by the Disability.gov team to help others learn about the importance of website accessibility and the best practices that are used on Disability.gov. [Read the blog](#)

### **White House Highlights STEM Innovators in the Disability Community as 'Champions of Change'**

The White House honored 14 individuals as 'Champions of Change' for leading the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math for people with disabilities in education and employment.

[Read about the honorees](#)

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at [odr.dc.gov](http://odr.dc.gov).



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### MISSION STATEMENT

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.

