

ADA



Public Accommodations (Private Businesses)

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 applies to public accommodations, commonly referred to as private businesses.

Public accommodations, which include over five million private establishments, such as restaurants, hotels, theaters, convention centers, retail stores, shopping centers, dry cleaners, doctor's offices, clinics, hospitals, museums, etc., must:

Provide goods and services in an integrated setting, unless separate or different measures are necessary to ensure equal opportunity.

Make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, and procedures that deny equal access to individuals with disabilities, unless a fundamental alteration would result in the nature of the goods and services provided.

Remove architectural and structural communication barriers in existing facilities where readily achievable, and provide readily achievable alternative measures when removal of barriers is not readily achievable.

Maintain accessible features of facilities and equipment.

Design and construct new facilities and, when undertaking alterations, alter existing facilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board and incorporated in the final Department of Justice title III regulation.

Entities controlled by religious organizations including places of worship, are not covered. Private clubs are not covered, except to the extent that the facilities of the private club are made available to customers or patrons of a place of public accommodation. For more highlights from ADA Title III, visit the US Department of Justice website at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/t3highlight.htm>

The U.S. Department of Justice provides information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through a toll-free information line. This service permits businesses, state and local governments or others to call and ask questions about general or specific ADA requirements including questions about the ADA standards for accessibility.

ADA specialists are available Monday through Friday from 9:30am until 5:30pm (Eastern Time) except Thursday when the hours are 12:30pm until 5:30pm. Spanish language is also available. Call 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (tty)

