New 2010 Ada Standards Effective Now

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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NEW 2010 ADA STANDARDS EFFECTIVE NOW

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The ADA story is not as much about accessibility as it is about advocacy for the rights of all people.

As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

That change has come about gradually in the past three decades, thanks to the efforts of a small group of dedicated people who wanted to tear down the barriers that excluded them from their communities and excluded their children from their peers. Through years of work organizing and attending protests, licking envelopes, sending out alerts, drafting legislation, speaking, testifying, negotiating, lobbying, filing lawsuits, being arrested--doing whatever they could for the cause they believed in--the barriers were tapped, pushed, and finally knocked over.

Since 1990, when the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law, discrimination based on disability has been, if not eliminated, certainly looked at closely and monitored more carefully through legislation.

The disability community has continued its active involvement in advocating for all barriers to be brought down. This has led to the new 2010 ADA Standards that became effective March 15, 2011, with a compliance time line of March 15, 2012.

These new standards prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability and requires places of public accommodation and commercial facilities to be designed and constructed for accessibility for all individuals. They address such barriers as ATM accessibility, sale of ticket and seating for public events, use of mobility devices, use of service animals, accessibility of recreational facilities, location of accessible routes in public buildings, and accessible signage use.

The Department of Justice has developed an official online version of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. They have also created a Fact Sheet with a summary of the changes for those interested.