

ADA Resource Document

Virginia's Judicial System



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted to ensure that all qualified individuals with disabilities enjoy the same access and opportunities available to persons without disabilities. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. The Virginia Judicial System is committed to providing equal access to, and full participation in, courts by people with disabilities, including attorneys, litigants, defendants, witnesses, victims, members of the public and prospective and current employees.

Important Areas and Considerations To Improve Accessibility

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Signage | <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible Route | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrance | <input type="checkbox"/> Bathrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Counters | <input type="checkbox"/> Courtrooms |

Types of Reasonable Accommodations



Accommodations That Have Been Considered Unreasonable*

- Allowing someone to request an attorney as a form of accommodation
- Requesting anything other than a dog or miniature horse as a service animal
- Allowing someone to record his/her own proceeding

*And therefore not required under the ADA

If you receive a request for accommodation, please contact the ADA coordinator to address the request as soon as possible.

ADA Coordinator - Renée Fleming Mills, Ph.D.
rmills@vacourts.gov
(804) 786-6455
(804) 786-0109 (fax)

Website

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courts/ada/home.html>

Service Animals:

- Any dog (all breeds and weights) individually trained to do work or perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability
- Miniature horses - must make reasonable modifications to allow

Cannot require ID, license, certification, cape or leash



Examples of Service Animal Tasks

- Guide individuals with impaired vision
- Assist before or during seizures
- Alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing to people or sounds
- Provide non-violent protection or rescue work
- Pull a wheelchair
- Alert to presence of allergens
- Provide physical support or assist with balance
- Prevent or interrupt impulsive/destructive behavior

Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

VDDHH provides the Judicial System with qualified interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing and real-time captioning services to ensure effective communication. Online resources for Judicial system employees include:

- Directory of qualified interpreters - identify sign language interpreters for last minute needs
- Sign language interpreter request forms - fax or email information in advance to VDDHH for coordination of coverage for a court assignment

<https://www.vddhh.org/>

Dialing 7-1-1

will connect you to a relay service that allows you to communicate with those who are deaf or hard of hearing. A Judicial System employee (using a standard telephone) can communicate through an interpreter who is bound by strict confidentiality requirements for the benefit of the person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

DID YOU KNOW...?



- Effective communication during interpreting services may involve multiple interpreters or interpreters with a particular skillset.
- Non-traditional power-driven mobility devices (like Segways) used as mobility aids by people with disabilities must be allowed in many circumstances.