Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)



What is the ADA?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was passed in 1990, is an important piece of legislation that protects people with disabilities throughout public life. Essentially, the law helps to ensure that anyone with a disability will receive the same opportunities that an individual without a disability has in the public sector and some parts of the private sector.

Within the ADA, five specific sections clarify where the law applies:

Title I	Employment
Title II	Public Services: State and Local Government.
Title III	Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities.
Title IV	Telecommunications.
Title V	Miscellaneous Provisions.

The ADA has adopted WCAG 2.1 AA as its core guidelines for website accessibility and online content. Many point to Title III and classify most websites as "places of public accommodation." For the most part, the internet is a public resource and impacts public life. This means that the ADA is enforceable by law. As the ADA prevents discrimination based on ability, websites that discriminate against members of the public who require accommodations may be considered in violation of federal ADA laws.

