

# Your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act

## What is the ADA?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against (treated unfairly) because they have a disability. Signed into law in 1990, it ensures people with disabilities have the same opportunities and rights as everyone else in all areas of life.

## Who does it protect?

The law protects anyone with a physical or mental disability that substantially limits one or more major life activity, such as self-care and working. It also protects people with a past disability and anyone treated differently because someone believes they have a disability, even if they do not.

## YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to be treated the same as everyone else when it comes to:



Jobs



Schools



Transportation



Housing



Health care and social services



Communication devices



Public places like restaurants

## If you are treated unfairly:

Because the ADA is a law, it's illegal for a state or local government, business, or organization to discriminate against you because you have a disability. If you believe this has happened, you can file a complaint online, by mail, or by fax.

Learn more about the law and your rights: [ADA National Network](#)

How to file a complaint: [ADA.gov](#)



The Administration for Community Living is an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Learn more at [ACL.gov](#).