



Disability Rights and Parenting with a Disability

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Introduction

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are two very important laws. These laws tell the government, businesses, and other organizations to protect parents with disabilities. They also protect people who want to become parents. There are two parts of the ADA that protect people with disabilities from being mistreated. One part tells state, city, and town governments what to do. The other part tells businesses what to do. Section 504 is for businesses and organizations that get money from the federal government.

Who gets protection from the ADA and Section 504?

The ADA and Section 504 say that people who have a hard time learning, moving, or thinking can have a disability. It also says that people who are sick for a long time can have a disability. To get protections under the ADA and Section 504, their disabilities must make it hard for them to do daily life tasks.

You are also protected if you had one of these problems in the past. You are also protected if people think you have a disability. Some of these disabilities include intellectual disabilities, blindness, Deafness, heart disease and diabetes.

Some daily life tasks include taking care of yourself, working, reading, learning, walking, hearing, and seeing.

What Disability Means Under the ADA and Section 504

- Problems with thinking, moving, or learning, or being sick for a long time.
- History of disability
- Being seen as disabled



What are governments, organizations, and businesses supposed to do?

- They're not allowed to discriminate against people because they have a disability.
- They are supposed to include people with disabilities with the rest of the community as much as possible.
- They have to make sure that people with disabilities have the same chances to get help.
- They must make changes to rules and programs so people with disabilities can get the help they need.
- They have to help people communicate in ways they understand.
- People have to be able to use and access their programs and services.



How do the ADA and Section 504 help parents with disabilities and people who want to become parents?

There are many ways that the ADA and Section 504 help parents with disabilities.

- Organizations and programs run by state and local governments have to follow the ADA. States and local governments run schools, courts, public transportation, and public hospitals.

- Businesses that are open to everyone must also follow the ADA. These businesses include clinics and hospitals, lawyers' offices, restaurants, and sports stadiums.
- Any organization or business that gets money from the federal government must follow Section 504.
- Some organizations that get federal money include hospitals, child welfare agencies, and colleges or universities.

Protections for Parents with Disabilities Under the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

ADA

State and Local Governments



Public Schools



Courts



Public Transportation



Public Hospitals

ADA

Businesses Open to Everyone



Lawyers' Offices



Sports Stadiums



Restaurants



Private Hospitals & Clinics

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

Agencies and Organizations That Get Money from the U.S. Government



Hospitals



Universities



Child Welfare Agencies

Rights Under the ADA and Section 504



No Unfair Treatment



Being Included



Having the Same Chances



Making Changes



Understandable Communication



Accessibility and Usability

What should parents with disabilities do if they have been treated unfairly?

If parents with disabilities are discriminated against, their rights are protected. They are also protected if businesses and organizations won't make changes to make things easier to use. Section 504 and ADA protect parents with disabilities.

Some kinds of unfair treatment are:

- Buildings that wheelchair users can't get into.
- Not allowing people to use communication they can understand. For example, it is unfair to say "no" to a sign language interpreter for Deaf people, or to give documents in Braille to blind people.
- Not making changes for accessibility. Some of these changes can be extra time or one-on-one help.
- Banning a service dog from going into a building.
- Keeping someone out of a program because they are disabled.

If you feel you have been treated unfairly because of a disability, **get in touch with a lawyer as soon as you can**. Every state has a Protection and Advocacy organization. Protection and Advocacy organizations protect disabled people's rights. They give free legal help to people with disabilities. Parents with disabilities can also complain to the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Some states can also help if people with disabilities are treated unfairly.

There are strict deadlines for sending in complaints.

It's important to act fast to protect your rights!

Getting Help When You Are Being Discriminated Against



Contact a Lawyer



Contact Your State's Protection and Advocacy Organization



Contact the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services