



Supreme Court of Wisconsin

DIRECTOR OF STATE COURTS

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Policy

Americans with Disabilities Act – Title II Public Programs, Services and Activities

The Wisconsin Court System affirms its commitment to full implementation of the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), which are comprehensive civil rights laws specifically for individuals with disabilities. It is the policy of the court system that its programs, services and activities will be operated so that, when viewed in their entirety, they are readily accessible to, and usable by, qualified individuals with disabilities. No individual with a disability will be refused participation in a service, program, or activity solely because the individual has a disability, needs an accommodation or because a building is inaccessible. Unless the proposed accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration of our programs and services or an undue financial or administrative burden, we will provide program accessibility for qualified people with disabilities.

Court system programs and services will be provided in an integrated setting, unless a separate or different measure is necessary to ensure equal access. Reasonable modifications in policies, practices, and procedures will be made so that individuals with disabilities are not denied access. Effective communication with individuals with disabilities is essential. Therefore, with sufficient notice, auxiliary aids and services will be provided to ensure that communications with individuals with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. When an auxiliary aid or service is required, the court system will give primary consideration to the choice expressed by the individual.

The court system has vested the primary responsibility for assurance of equal access to programs, services and activities of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals to the presiding judges and department managers who shall develop procedures for implementation of this policy. A copy of each office's procedures must be on file in the office of the ADA Coordinator. The ADA Coordinator will work in conjunction with the presiding judges and the department managers of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals to coordinate efforts to carry out these responsibilities. The Office of Management Services will maintain a resource list of products and service providers and will address ADA issues as leases are negotiated.

For the Circuit Courts, accommodation requests may be directed to the Clerk of Circuit Court in the county where the case is filed. The clerk may refer some requests to the judge for determination. If your request is denied, you may contact the District Court Administrator for that county. The District Court Administrator may help pursue the matter with the proper officials, who may include the judge, the county ADA coordinator, or the Chief Judge of the Judicial District. Each county also has its own ADA policies and grievance procedures applicable to county facilities, staff and services. The Deputy Director of State Courts for Court Operations serves as the ADA State Coordinator for the Circuit Courts, providing technical assistance and information about accessibility of court services.