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**Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,  
the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and  
28 CFR Part 35**

**Title II Guidelines  
for the  
State Courts System of Florida**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 was enacted to ensure that all qualified individuals with disabilities enjoy the same opportunities that are available to persons without disabilities. The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 makes important changes to the definition of the term "disability." United States Department of Justice is responsible for issuing ADA regulation for state and local governments (28 Code of Federal Regulation, Part 35). These federal laws and regulations are collectively referred to as "the ADA" in these guidelines.

Equalizing opportunities is of paramount importance to the everyday operations of the judiciary. The Florida State Courts System attempts to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, and procedures; furnish auxiliary aids and services; and afford program accessibility through the provision of accessible facilities, the relocation of services or programs, or the provision of services at alternative sites, as appropriate and necessary. However, the ADA does not require the court system to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of court programs, services, or activities, or that would impose an undue financial or administrative burden on the courts.

The Florida State Courts System has produced these guidelines to assist judicial officers and courthouse personnel in understanding the public entity provisions of the ADA (Title II) and to assist them in ensuring that architectural or communication barriers do not obstruct any person's access to the courts. Included are a practical summary of Title II of the ADA and an overview of accessibility requirements. Additionally, this guide contains information pertaining to recognizing and accommodating individuals with disabilities. The State Courts System recommends that each district court and judicial circuit educate its employees on the requirements of the ADA.

The Statewide ADA Coordinator for the State Courts System is Ms. Debbie Howells in the Office of the State Courts Administrator; telephone: (850)922-4370; e-mail: [ada@flcourts.org](mailto:ada@flcourts.org); fax: (850)488-0156. Ms. Howells is available to provide technical assistance to judicial officers and court employees regarding court compliance with the ADA. In addition, each district and circuit court has designated a Court ADA Coordinator to assist judges as well as individuals with disabilities who need access to court services and programs. Court ADA Coordinators can be contacted through the marshals' offices in the appellate courts or the trial court administrators' offices in the circuit courts.

*Upon request by a qualified person with a disability, this document will be made available in alternate formats such as audiotape, Braille, large print, or electronic file on computer disk. To order this document in an alternate format, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Office of the State Courts Administrator, 500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900, (850)922-4370 or [ada@flcourts.org](mailto:ada@flcourts.org).*

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