



Easy Read Edition

A Self-Advocate's Guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act

Introduction

1. To Start

What is this toolkit?



This toolkit is about the **Americans with Disabilities Act**.



We call the Americans with Disabilities Act "**the ADA**" for short.



The ADA is a law in the United States.

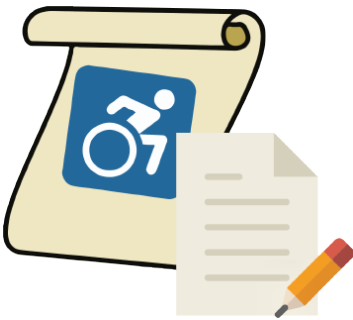


The ADA says that people with disabilities have rights.

This toolkit will help answer these questions:



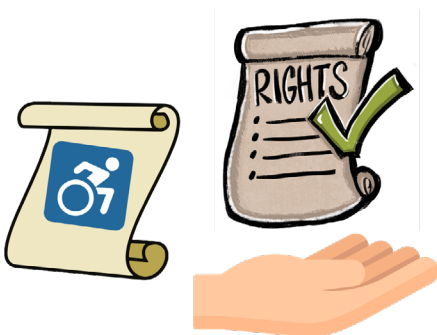
- What is the ADA?



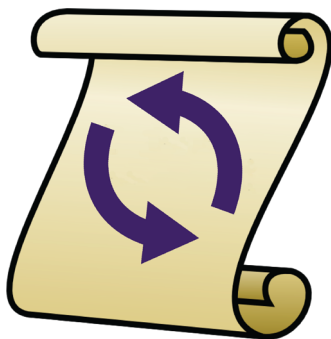
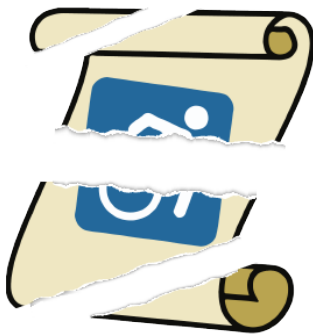
- Why was the ADA made?



- Why is the ADA important?



- What are my rights from the ADA?



- Why are those rights important?
- How can I make sure I get my ADA rights?
- When does the ADA **not** work?
- What is the ADA Amendments Act?
- Why is the ADA Amendments Act important?



- What is Olmstead?



- Why is Olmstead important?



- What are people doing to try and make the ADA worse?



- How can I help protect the ADA?

How can I use this toolkit?



You can read this toolkit from beginning to end. Or you can go straight to the parts that you want to know more about.

Glossary words

AaI

You'll see some words in this guide that are **bolded**. We explain these words in the Glossary at the end of each section.



END

There is also a Glossary at the end of the toolkit. The Glossary at the end has words from every section.

Examples



This toolkit uses examples to show how things work in real life. To make it clearer, examples will look like this:



For example, ASAN published a toolkit called A Self-Advocate's Guide to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The toolkit uses an Easy Read format with large text and plain language.



ASAN designed this toolkit so that any person with any disability can use it and learn from it.