

The Southwest ADA Center is the Southwest's leading resource on the Americans with Disabilities Act and related disability rights laws. The Center is one of the National Network of Centers funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the Department of Education. Although the Center is based at TIRR Memorial Hermann, the Center is independent of TIRR Memorial Hermann and TIRR Memorial Hermann does not exercise any degree of oversight of the Center.

Call toll-free 1.800.949.4232 for training, technical assistance and resources on the ADA and other disability rights laws.

Call toll-free 1.800.949.4232 (voice or TTY) or 713.520.0232 (voice or TTY) or visit or our Web site at <a href="mailto:swdbtac.org/index.html">swdbtac.org/index.html</a> to find out more about your rights under the ADA.

### **Legal Resources for Persons with Disabilities**

#### General

The Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System and Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a nationwide network of legally based disability rights agencies. P&A agencies have the authority to provide legal representation and other advocacy services, under all federal and state laws, to all people with disabilities (based on a system of priorities for services). All P&As maintain a presence in facilities that care for people with disabilities, where they monitor, investigate and attempt to remedy adverse conditions. These agencies also devote considerable resources to ensuring full access to inclusive educational programs, financial entitlements, healthcare, accessible housing and productive employment opportunities. CAP agencies (many of which are housed within P&A offices) provide information and assistance to individuals seeking or receiving vocational rehabilitation (VR) services under the Rehabilitation Act, including assistance in pursuing administrative, legal and other appropriate remedies.

http://www.napas.org/aboutus/PA CAP.htm

To reach the P&A that serves you: 202.408.9514 202.408.9521 (TTY) napas.org/index.htm

### **Employment**

Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires employers with 15 or more employees to provide qualified individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from the full range of employment-related opportunities available to others.

If you have been discriminated against on the basis of disability you may file a complaint at any U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission field office. Field offices are located in 50 cities throughout the U.S. and are listed in most telephone directories under "U.S. Government."

For the appropriate EEOC field office in your geographic area, contact: 1.800.669.4000 (voice) 1.800.669.6820 (TTY) eeoc.gov

# Housing

The Fair Housing Act, as amended in 1988, prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, and national origin. Its coverage includes private housing, housing that receives Federal financial assistance, and State and local government housing.

If your rights in housing have been violated you may file a complaint under the Fair Housing Act with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. For more information or to file a complaint, contact:

Office of Program Compliance and Disability Rights Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 7th Street, S.W., Room 5242 Washington, D.C. 20410

1.800.669.9777 (voice) 1.800.927.9275 (TTY) hud.gov/offices/fheo

### **Education—Elementary & Secondary**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires public schools to make available to all eligible children with disabilities a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their individual needs.

If you disagree with the proposed IEP, you can request a due process hearing and a review from the State educational agency if applicable in that state. They also can appeal the State agency's decision to State or Federal court. For more information, contact:

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20202-7100

202.245.7468 (voice or TTY) ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep

# **Education--Postsecondary**

Section 504 and the ADA protect qualified persons with disabilities from discrimination in many areas of post-secondary education, including: (1) admission and recruitment, (2) academics, (3) housing, (4) research, (5) financial aid, (6) counseling, (7) physical education, (8) athletics, (9) transportation, and (10) employment assistance.

If you have been discriminated against in a postsecondary setting you may file a complaint by e-mail, on-line or in writing with the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education.

202.366.2220 (voice) 202.366.0511 (TTY) 1.800.778.4838 (voice) 1.800.455.9880 (TTY) airconsumer.ost.dot.gov