

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

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Disability Rights Bureau
(312) 814-5684

Individuals with hearing or speech disabilities can reach us by using the 7-1-1 relay service.

DISABILITY RIGHTS BUREAU

The Disability Rights Bureau enforces state and federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities. The Bureau ensures compliance with laws requiring access to buildings, housing, and other services for people with disabilities by investigating and resolving complaints through injunctive measures, negotiation, policies and training, settlement agreements and if necessary, litigation. In addition, the Disability Rights Bureau provides technical assistance and training to individuals with disabilities as well as public bodies and private businesses seeking to comply with disability rights laws. Bureau staff members serve on a number of committees that address a variety of issues impacting people with disabilities.

The Environmental Barriers Act (EBA) is one of several laws the Bureau enforces as the sole civil enforcement agency. The EBA, originally enacted in 1985 and amended in 2016, outlines physical access regulations for people with disabilities in new construction, additions and alterations to public facilities, and new multistory housing. The Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) contains the EBA's design standards, such as the required width of a door and amount of clearance necessary for wheelchair usage. The IAC was revised in October 2018 to be better aligned with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design. A copy of the EBA and IAC can be found on the Illinois Attorney General's website www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov. The Environmental Barriers Act, Illinois Human Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Fair Housing Amendments Act, among other disability rights laws, protect the right of people with disabilities to fair and equal opportunities in life. The Bureau utilizes these laws to ensure equal access and treatment of people with disabilities in the State of Illinois.

- **Enforces** state and federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities to equal access to buildings, housing, and other services. The Bureau also enforces state and federal laws that protect individuals that use service animals and investigates issues with assistance animals in housing.
- **Resolves** accessibility violations and discrimination impacting the people of the State of Illinois through injunctive relief, negotiation and litigation.
- **Provides** technical assistance and referrals to individuals with disabilities as well as public bodies and private businesses seeking to comply with disability rights laws.
- **Conducts** disability rights training programs for law enforcement, architects, engineers, building code officials and inspectors, business owners, plumbers, disability rights organizations, and other groups upon request.

To file a complaint: You may file a complaint by calling the Disability Rights Bureau at (312) 814-5684 (by using the 7-1-1 relay service) or completing a complaint form from the Illinois Attorney General's website at <https://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights-of-the-people/disability-rights/> and submitting the form to the Disability Rights Bureau at 115 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603 or the Springfield office at 500 S. Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701.