



**ADA Advisory Board of Southwest Florida**  
**Serving Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades and Hendry Counties**

c/o Center for Independent Living Gulf Coast  
7011 Cypress Terrace Suite 103, Ft. Myers, FL 33907

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Lee County Chapter

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***“Working together to make our community truly diverse”***

The ADA Advisory Board of South West Florida is a volunteer organization that has served five counties in Southwest Florida for over twenty years. It is composed of people from business, government, non-profit organizations, and concerned citizens; many with disabilities who wish to help people in our community with disabilities achieve their life goals, through fair and reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Our main goals are twofold. First, to educate individuals and organizations about the ADA and the needs and goals of people with disabilities in our communities. Second, our most important priority is to be the voice of “reasonable accommodation” for those who have been discriminated against as designated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990), and if their Civil Rights have been violated, to help correct the deficiencies or to direct them to the appropriate government agency that can advocate for them.

## **SERVICES**

We offer inspection services and recommendations that can assist businesses and organizations to become more accessible and in compliance with ADA guidelines for their customers and employees with disabilities. We make suggestions on improvements that fulfill the ADA requirements of being “Readily Achievable” and “Reasonable Accommodations.” The fees and donations collected for these services help defer the costs to our parent non-profit organization, the Center for Independent Living/Gulf Coast.

## **THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

<http://www.usdog.gov/crt/ada/business.htm>

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in everyday activities, such as buying an item at the store, going to movies, enjoying a meal at a local restaurant.

To meet the goals of the ADA, the law established requirements for businesses of all sizes. These requirements went into effect on January 26, 1992 and have been updated since. Businesses that serve the public must modify policies and practices that discriminate against people with disabilities; comply with accessible design standards when constructing or altering facilities; remove barriers in existing facilities where readily achievable; and provide auxiliary aids and services when needed to ensure effect communication with people who have hearing, vision, or speech impairments. All businesses, even those that do not serve the public, must comply with accessible design standards when constructing or alerting facilities.

## **WHAT WE DO...**

Through advocacy and referral, we provide information to consumers with disabilities and businesses on accessibility and ADA compliance issues. Our trained volunteers investigate complaints and advise compliance through our ADA "blue card" complaint program. We also work hand in hand with local businesses and agencies to help them stay in compliance with ADA guidelines and regulations, and offer an ADA accessible decal to those who qualify.

If you, or someone you love has a disability, or you would like to donate some time to a truly worthwhile cause, consider the ADA Advisory Board of Southwest Florida. We invite all organizations, businesses, and concerned citizens to get involved and attend our meetings. We would be honored to add you to our email contact list. We warn you however, advocating for those with special needs and amazing stories to tell can be habit forming!

## **WHEN AND WHERE WE MEET**

**Lee, Collier & Hendry Counties**  
**Third Tuesday of each month**  
**3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council**  
**1926 Victoria Avenue**  
**Fort Myers, FL 33901**  
[adaconsultant@cilgulfcoast.org](mailto:adaconsultant@cilgulfcoast.org)

**Charlotte & Glades County**  
**Second Friday Bi-monthly**  
**8:00 a.m.**  
**Hearing Impaired of Port Charlotte**  
**25250 Sandhill Blvd.**  
**Port Charlotte, FL 33983**  
[adacharlotte@yahoo.com](mailto:adacharlotte@yahoo.com)

## **USEFUL ADA LINKS**

**National US Department of Justice**  
<http://www.ada.gov/>

**U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission**  
<http://www.eeoc.gov/>

**Checklist for self-inspection for "Disability-friendly Business" door decal**

### **ADA Florida Statutes**

*Website for the Florida Statutes which have priority over some of the federal rules such as parking:*

[http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/committees/accessibility/aac/Changes\\_to\\_Law/2012\\_Florida\\_Accessibility\\_Code\\_Final%20.pdf](http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/committees/accessibility/aac/Changes_to_Law/2012_Florida_Accessibility_Code_Final%20.pdf)

### **DOJ Guidelines**

*Quick reference guidelines from the Department of Justice (DOJ)*

<http://www.ada.gov/smbusgd.pdf>

### **ADA Small Business Primer**

<http://www.ada.gov/regs2010/smallbusiness/smallbusprimer2010.htm>

### **ADA Inspection Checklist**

<http://www.ada.gov/racheck.pdf>