



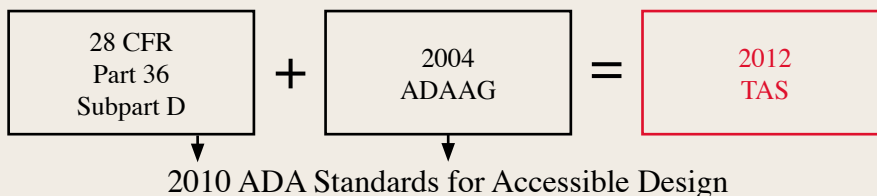
ACCESSIBLE SOLUTIONS News

HELPING BUSINESSES WITH ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

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2012 TAS

The proposed 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) are based on the new federal 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (SAD). It is important to note, however, that the 2010 SAD is based on both the Title II and Title III CFR (Code of Federal Regulations for publicly funded entities, and for public accommodations and commercial facilities), and the 2004 ADAAG, therefore, the proposed 2012 TAS includes excerpts from both documents as well as clarifications necessary to facilitate the adoption of a new Texas standard.



Lawsuit! Why Compliance Matters.

On May 31, 2011, the Department of Justice and Wells Fargo, the giant banking and financial services company, reached a settlement arising from claims that Wells Fargo was not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the settlement, Wells Fargo will, among other changes, ensure that its approximately 12,100 ATMs nationwide will allow for equal access for individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are blind or have low vision and require speech output to use an ATM. It will also make its website accessible by incorporating screen reader-specific features such as skip navigation, ensuring that individuals with low vision and/or color blindness may manipulate text font and color. Wells Fargo has agreed to pay up to \$16 million to persons harmed before this agreement was made, as well as a \$55,000 penalty. You may read more about the settlement at: http://www.ada.gov/wells_fargo/wf_fact_sheet.htm.



New Playground in Burleson To Accommodate Disabled Kids

Disabled children won't be left out when they play outdoors with their friends in Burleson. The city will soon build its first "fully accessible" playground in Burleson's Meadows Park. City staff members got the idea for the playground from play equipment at a convention. Last week, the City Council approved a construction contract for \$162,250. Funding came from the Parks Gas Development fund.

Burleson purchased play equipment from Game Time, an Alabama-based company. The play areas will have surfaces of rubberized material and wood chips, and the ramps will be wide enough for children using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility equipment to pass each other.

The work should be completed by fall, said Peter Krause, parks and recreation director. "This has been a long time in coming for us," Krause said. "This is a unique way for children of all abilities to play together equally."

Several area cities have accessible playgrounds. Arlington recently dedicated its first barrier-free playground, in Randol Mill Park. There is also a special park in Irving.

Lubbock, Fort Worth, Arlington Among Top "Most-Livable" US Cities for Wheelchair Users

Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Arlington have been named three of the top 20 most-livable cities for wheelchair users. The Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation commissioned the list to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



The list, on which Lubbock is 10th, Fort Worth is 14th, and Arlington is 16th, ranks cities in several regions of the country. Some of the nation's largest cities were among the 100 studied to determine which communities offer the best combination of factors that enable a disabled person to experience a fuller, longer life. Livability factors include access to fitness facilities and recreation, access to paratransit services, and the percentage of people living with disabilities who are employed. The city's age and climate are also taken into account.

Helping Restore Ability

Armie Snarley spends five hours a day helping a woman who has lupus, diabetes, and cancer with grocery shopping, cleaning, and other tasks so she can stay in her home and live independently.

Snarley who works for Helping Restore Ability in Arlington, said she doesn't view what she does as a job, but as a way to help someone live a better life.

Founded 34 years ago, Helping Restore Ability recently moved into a new, larger facility due to the increase in its number of clients. Most clients are on Medicaid, but they also offer a "private pay" option. For information, visit:

www.helpingrestoreability.org

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