



ACCESSIBLE SOLUTIONS News

HELPING BUSINESSES WITH ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

Volume 1
Issue 4
Nov 2011

Suit Against The City Of Arlington May Proceed



A quadriplegic man whose case against the city of Arlington was dismissed has now been allowed to continue his suit after a review by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Richard Frame's

case stemmed from a lack of accessible sidewalks and curb cuts in Arlington, a violation of Title II of the ADA. The case was initially dismissed by a district court who said Frame had waited too long after the work was done to bring the suit, and because he hadn't personally used all the sidewalks and curbs at issue. The Court of Appeals stated that a disabled person need not use all of them beforehand, calling this a "futile" gesture. They further stated it was reasonable to expect cities to provide sidewalk accessibility as a necessary step towards facilitating other provisions of the ADA, namely a disabled person's access to employment, transportation, and public accommodation.



Help Is A Phone Call (Or Click) Away

For assistance with the requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act and/or the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS), clip and save this contact info:

Technical Information for
Architectural Barriers Act and/or TAS

Phone: (877) 278-0999

E-mail: techinfo.ab@license.state.tx.us

Web: <http://www.license.state.tx.us/AB/Techmemos.htm>



At the web site, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) publishes technical memoranda which answer common TAS questions and clarify specific technical requirements. You might be able to quickly find your answer here without having to make a phone call.

What IS Web Accessibility?

In keeping pace with new technologies, the world of accessibility now encompasses access to the world wide web by the disabled. Web accessibility refers to the ability of temporarily and permanently disabled people to perceive, understand, navigate, and contribute to the internet.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international group of member organizations, paid staff, and volunteers who work together to improve web accessibility. Their Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) guidelines are considered the international standard. For people who are unable to see, hear, move, or process some types of information, the implementation of these guidelines by software and web design developers is welcome news.

Many of the web accessibility guidelines are technical and require the services of an experienced programmer to implement. Other guidelines are simpler for the layman to understand, if not implement. For example, the guidelines recommend providing a text alternative for images. This allows those who are unable to see images and may be using a text-to-synthetic-speech translator to have an enhanced web experience. Take the case of an article about the Rocky Mountains with an accompanying photograph. A person who is unable to view images would have to wonder. Is it a bear? Is it an image of snow-capped mountains? Is it a close-up of a wildflower? A simple text explanation of the photo lets the translator impart this information to the disabled person, allowing them to more fully understand and enjoy the article.

Another guideline involves the degree of contrast between background color and text color. For those who have trouble differentiating between colors, text may be difficult to read if the background color is too close in hue to the foreground color.

These are just two examples of the innovative ways in which the web is becoming more accessible to the impaired or disabled. Some of these guidelines may in future become as standard as handicapped parking spaces. The W3C's efforts are ongoing and they encourage volunteers to contribute ideas on ways to make it even better. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the W3C, visit: <http://www.w3.org/WAI>.



For The Record

Esther Vergeer (born 18 July 1981) is a Dutch wheelchair tennis player. Combining singles and doubles, she has won 39



Grand Slams, 21 year-end championships and 5 Paralympics titles. Vergeer has been the world number one wheel chair tennis player since 1999. In singles, she has not been beaten since January 2003 and is on a winning streak of 429 matches.

And The Accessibility Award Goes To....



While many people whip out a plastic card and say "Charge it!", those who are blind or visually impaired may have difficulty distinguishing the array of cards in their wallets. To solve this problem, retailers are beginning to offer credit cards, reward cards and gift cards in Braille. It's nice to know that everyone will now have the same access to impulse spending and credit card debt this holiday season.

Your Name in the Spotlight!

Are you working on a project that involves an interesting aspect of accessibility? Tell us about it and we may feature your story in our next newsletter. Send submissions to dheilman@accessiblesolution.com.

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