

Summary of the 2024 Updates to 504

This summary explains how Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act protects people with disabilities. It updates old rules and makes some important changes to stop discrimination against people with disabilities in different areas.

Here are the key points:



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Medical Treatment

Medical Treatment: People with disabilities have sometimes been treated unfairly when getting medical care, like being denied organ transplants or life-saving treatments. This rule makes sure that medical decisions aren't based on biases or stereotypes, like thinking someone with a disability has less value than someone without a disability.



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Value Assessments

Value Assessments: Sometimes, doctors or hospitals use tools to decide what treatments to give. These tools shouldn't place less value on the lives of people with disabilities. The rule stops discrimination when these tools are used to deny people the care they need.



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Child Welfare Programs



This rule ensures that children, parents, and caregivers with disabilities are treated fairly in the child welfare system. This includes making sure people with disabilities have equal access to services like parenting programs, visitation rights, and child placements.

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Web and Mobile Access



As more services move online, this rule requires that websites and mobile apps be accessible to people with disabilities. The rule follows certain standards (WCAG 2.1 AA) to make sure websites and apps are usable for everyone.

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Accessible Medical Equipment

People with disabilities need medical equipment that works for them, like exam tables that adjust in height or scales that accommodate wheelchairs. The rule requires clinics and hospitals to have at least some accessible equipment within two years.



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Community Integration

People with disabilities should receive services in the most integrated setting, meaning in regular community settings whenever possible, instead of being separated from others. This rule supports the idea that people with disabilities have the right to live and get services in the community if that's what they want and need.



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Other Important Changes:

- **Service Animals:** People with disabilities can bring trained service animals into places, except in special situations.
- **Maintaining Accessible Features:** Buildings and equipment for people with disabilities must be kept in good working order.



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Other Important Changes:

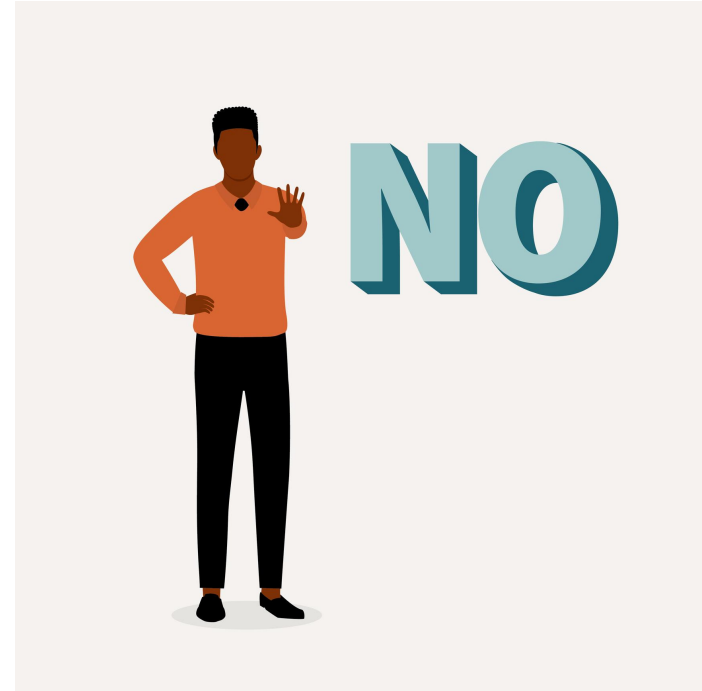
- **Mobility Devices:** People can use manual or powered mobility devices, like wheelchairs or Segways, in places where people walk.
- **Communication:** Providers must make sure people with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities can communicate easily. This may mean offering things like sign language interpreters, Braille materials, or captioning.



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Other Important Changes:

- **No Retaliation:** It's against the rules to punish someone for speaking up about discrimination.
- **Direct Threat:** If a person poses a real danger to others, programs can stop them from participating, but only if it's necessary.



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Other Important Changes:

- **Limits:** If making changes would cost too much or change a program too much, a place doesn't have to make the changes, but they still need to find another way to help people with disabilities as much as possible.



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This rule helps make sure people with disabilities have equal access and are treated fairly in healthcare, child services, and other areas.



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