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www.dhs.gov/ada

# ADA ANNIVERSARY UPDATE: 31 YEARS

ADA Audio Conference Series  
July 20, 2021




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## SPEAKERS

**Sharon Rennert**, Senior Attorney  
Advisor, ADA/GINA Division Office of  
Legal Counsel

**Amanda Maisels**, Deputy Chief,  
Disability Rights Section, U.S.  
Department of Justice

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## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC) UPDATE

Sharon Rennert, Senior Attorney Advisor, ADA/GINA Division Office of Legal Counsel  
Sharon.Rennert@eeoc.gov  
July 20, 2021



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# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION UPDATE JULY 2021

**AMANDA MAISELS**  
DEPUTY CHIEF, DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AMANDA.MAISELS@USD.OJ.GOV  
ADA.GOV



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## OLMSTEAD

### North Dakota Settlement Agreement (December 2020)

- Adults with physical disabilities in nursing facilities
- 8 year agreement, statewide
- Will ensure that adults with physical disabilities can receive community-based services instead of entering or remaining in nursing facilities
- Affects more that 2500 individuals



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## OLMSTEAD

### Maine Settlement Agreement (June 2021)

- Young man with intellectual disabilities
- Maine's Medicaid waiver limited the hours of services in his home, but not in congregate care settings.
- Maine will change policy on the cap for in-home services
- Pay \$100,000 in damages to complainant



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 **CHILD WELFARE**

**Massachusetts Department of Children and Families Settlement Agreement (November 2020)**

- First DOJ settlement addressing discrimination against parents with disabilities by a state child welfare agency
- Complaints from parents with physical, hearing, developmental, and other disabilities
- DCF denied requests for reasonable modifications, failed to provide interpreters to individuals with hearing disabilities, and otherwise denied parents with disabilities an equal opportunity
- New Parents With Disabilities Policy
- No decisions based on generalizations or stereotypes



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 **TRANSPORTATION**

**Amtrak Settlement Agreement (December 2020)**

- Ensures equal access to Amtrak stations across country
- Over 10 years, Amtrak will design 135 accessible stations, construct 90, and have 45 more under construction
- \$2.25 million settlement fund
- file complaints at [civilrights.justice.gov/report](http://civilrights.justice.gov/report)



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 **TRANSPORTATION**

**Accessible Pedestrian Signals in Chicago and New York (April 2021)**

- U.S. intervened in suit against Chicago, 99% of Chicago's intersections lack APS
- Statement of Interest filed in New York, addresses remedy for lack of access to signalized crossings and pedestrian grid



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**VOTING**

**Newton County, Arkansas Settlement Agreement (June 2021)**

- Polling place accessibility – parking areas, pathways, ramps, barriers inside
- No working accessible voting machines
- Make voting program accessible, including selecting locations, surveying for accessibility, using temporary accessibility measures, providing accessible voting machines, ADA coordinator



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**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Statement of Interest in A.V. v. Douglas County (D. Colo.) (June 2021)**

- 11 year old child with autism sued his school district and the sheriff's office after School Resource Officers aggressively handcuffed and detained him
- child scratched a classmate with a pencil after the classmate wrote on him with markers
- ADA applies to law enforcement, and reasonable modifications are required
- Public entities are liable under Title II for actions of employees



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**ADA.GOV BETA SITE**



**beta.ada.gov**

Please share your feedback!

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## Questions?

Please use the Q&A section to submit your questions.

DO NOT post questions in the Chat box.

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**National Network**  
Information, Guidance, and Training on the Americans with Disabilities Act

### July ADANN 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session

**Webinar: Chat with the Directors past and present in Celebration of the 30 Years of the ADA National Network**  
 Thursday – July 22, 2021  
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM [Eastern Time]

**Register & More:**  
[www.ada-audio.org](http://www.ada-audio.org)


**Celebrating 30 Years!**  
**National Network**  
Americans with Disabilities Act Guidance and Training

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**Audio Conference Series**

Next Session:  
 Tuesday, August 17, 2021

**Accessible Autonomous Vehicles (Avs)**

Registration available at: [www.ada-audio.org](http://www.ada-audio.org)

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