



Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan

DISABILITY RIGHTS BUREAU

The *Disability Rights Bureau* enforces state and federal laws protecting the rights of people with disabilities. The Bureau ensures compliance with laws requiring access to buildings, housing, and other services for people with disabilities by investigating and resolving complaints through negotiation and litigation. In addition, the Disability Rights Bureau provides technical assistance and training to individuals with disabilities as well as public bodies and private businesses seeking to comply with disability rights laws. Bureau staff members serve on a number of committees that address a variety of issues impacting people with disabilities, such as special education.

The Environmental Barriers Act (EBA) is one of several laws the Bureau enforces. The EBA, enacted in 1985 and amended in 1996, outlines physical access regulations for people with disabilities in new construction, additions and alterations to public facilities, and new multi-story housing. The Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC) contains the EBA's design standards, such as the required width of a door and amount of clearance necessary for wheelchair usage. A copy of the EBA and IAC can be found on the Illinois Attorney General's Web site www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov.

The Environmental Barriers Act, Illinois Human Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Fair Housing Amendments Act, among other disability rights laws, protect the right of people with disabilities to fair and equal opportunities in life. The Bureau utilizes these laws to ensure equal access and treatment of people with disabilities in the State of Illinois.

The Disability Rights Bureau:

- **Enforces** state and federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities to equal access to buildings, housing, and other services.
- **Resolves** accessibility violations and discrimination impacting the people of the State of Illinois through negotiation and litigation.
- **Provides** technical assistance and referrals to individuals with disabilities as well as public bodies and private businesses seeking to comply with disability rights laws.
- **Conducts** disability rights training programs for law enforcement, architects, engineers, building code officials and inspectors, business owners, disability rights organizations, and other groups upon request.

To file a complaint: You may file a complaint by calling the Disability Rights Bureau at (312) 814-5684 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013) or completing a complaint form from the Illinois Attorney General's Web site at www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov and submitting the form to the Disability Rights Bureau at 100 W. Randolph Street, 11th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601 or the Springfield office at 500 S. Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706.