

PIRS Hot Sheet

Advocacy & Services for People with Disabilities

DOJ Responds on Pool Access

On Feb. 21, the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) issued a response letter to the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) regarding access to swimming pools, the use of pool lifts and implementation of the new 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Regarding the issue of "fixed" pool lifts, DOJ stated: "If, in our example, an entity chooses to use a lift complying with the 2010 Standards that is removable or otherwise designated as "portable," it may do so, so long as while the lift is provided at the pool, it is affixed in some manner to the pool deck or apron." DOJ goes on to state, "If installation of a fixed lift or sloped entry is not readily achievable, then a public accommodation (i.e. a business serving the public) may consider alternatives such as use of a portable pool lift that is not affixed to the pool facility but incorporates features that in all other respects complies with the 2010 Standards..."

DOJ also emphasized the need to consider readily achievable barrier removal on a case-by-case basis, the need to develop an implementation plan, and the obligation of ongoing barrier removal. DOJ states, "Such a plan, if appropriately designed and diligently executed, may well serve as evidence of a good faith effort to comply with the ADA's barrier removal requirements."

Read the DOJ letter on the DOJ ADA web site in either pdf or html formats:

www.ada.gov/ahla_letter_2_21.htm

www.ada.gov/ahla_letter_2_21.pdf

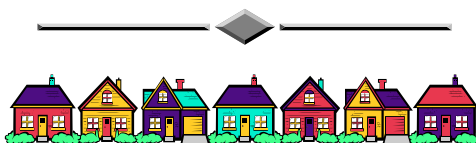
Source: National Center on Accessibility

"Extra Help" for Medicare Part D:

"Extra Help" is a Medicare program to help people with limited income and resources pay for Medicare prescription drug coverage (Part D). A Medicare beneficiary may qualify for Extra Help, also called low-income subsidy (LIS) if their income and resources are below certain limits. Since January 1, 2010, Social Security no longer can count the value of any life insurance policy as a resource for Extra Help, nor the help a beneficiary receives when someone else provides food and shelter, or pays household bills for food, mortgage, rent, electricity, water, property taxes, heating fuel or gas or garbage removal. Many people who receive Medicare still have not applied for Extra Help, and prior non-qualifying applicants for Extra Help may now qualify under these rule changes. A Medicare beneficiary can apply for Extra Help online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/medicare.htm.

Source: Federal Register, January 18, 2012, [Pages 2446-2448]

www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-01-18/html/2012-827.htm



Do you need minor modifications
to make your home safer and
more accessible?

Call Don Wixon, Coordinator of PIRS Minor
Home Modification Program.
530-885-6100, ext 34

PIRS Calendar

Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request to facilitate access to PIRS facilities and services.

In order to maintain a comfortable environment for everyone, we respectfully request that **no perfumes or other scented products** are worn when attending activities at PIRS. Thank you.

Deaf Awareness and Conversational American Sign Language:

⇒ **Beginning Class: NEW DAY** - Learn basic vocabulary, Tuesday, 1:00 – 2:00 pm. information, call us at 503-885-6100, or TTY (530) 885-0326, or use CA Relay Service at 211 or 1-877-314-6025.

Disability Peer Support Groups:

⇒ **Depression Support Group** – Friday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. at PIRS. This group is facilitated by Senior Peer Counseling Program of PCHHS, and it is open to all adults regardless of age.

⇒ **Women’s Mental Health Disabilities Support Group** – Monday 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Call Leslie Brewer, ext. 13.

⇒ **Men’s Disability Support Group** – Tuesday 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Call Jeff Cowen, ext 15, before attending.

⇒ **Women’s Disability Support Group** – Wednesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Open drop-in group. Call Facilitator Barbara Finn, ext. 26, for more information.

⇒ **Peer Support – New Program:** If you live between Applegate and Gold Run and would like to talk individually with a volunteer Peer Support Specialist, call Leslie, x13.

Auburn People First: self-advocacy for people with developmental disabilities

⇒ Call the Supported Life Institute, Self-Advocacy Coordination Project at 916-567-1974 for more information.

FREE Help with your healthcare services problems:

HICAP – Health Insurance Counseling for seniors and people with disabilities. Call Seniors First/SeniorLink at 1-800-878-9222 to make an appointment.

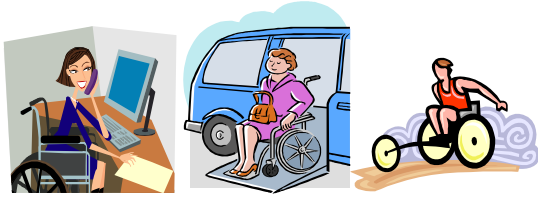
Health Rights Hotline, serving Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, & Sacramento Counties, regardless where you receive your health coverage. Tollfree (888) 354-4474 or TTY (916) 551-2180. In Sacramento, call (916) 551-2100. www.hrh.org.

HMO Help Center: State Dept. of Managed Health Care, free independent medical review (IMR) for denial of services. Assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call (888) 466-2219 or (877) 688-9891 (TTY). www.healthhelp.ca.gov.

DRA’s Health Access Project: free publications about the health care and insurance rights and concerns of people with disabilities and serious health conditions. <http://dralegal.org/>, and click on “Projects”.

Mental Health America
In Crisis? 1-800-273-TALK
Pensar en Suicida?
1-800-SUICIDA (784-2432)
(Ellos son Latinos y hablan Espanol)

California AgrAbility Project serves agricultural workers with disabilities and their families. Call (530) 752-1613 voice; Toll free: 1-800-477-6129; fax (530) 752-2640.
<http://calagrability.ucdavis.edu>



How-To Videos for People with a Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)

The website for the Rehab Research and Training Center on Secondary Conditions in the Rehabilitation of Individuals with Spinal Cord Injury, located at Medstar National Rehabilitation Hospital, has a selection of how-to videos featuring members of their SCI peer-mentoring program. These videos demonstrate everything from how to sit-ski to how to make fried chicken. The videos are updated monthly. The latest one features peer-mentor Myron demonstrating exercise for someone with a C5-C6 injury. See it at: <http://sci-health.org/exercisec5-6>

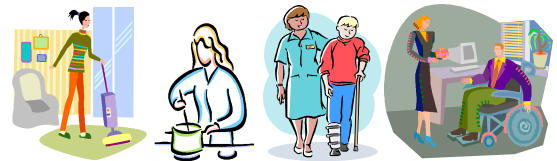
See a list of other SCI videos at: <http://sci-health.org/resources/media>

Also post your comments on the site and let them know what other topics you'd like to see!

RRTC on SCI is funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education.

Get Expert Answers to SCI Questions

FacingDisability.com is a new resource from the Hill Foundation. It features real people living with spinal cord injury (SCI) and their families and their experiences immediately after and in the years and decades following their injury. It also features experts answering honest, thoughtful questions many families have asked when dealing with SCI.



Do you need to hire an in-home personal assistant or care provider?

Are you a professional care provider? Apply to join PIRS Personal Assistants Registry/Referral Service. (No fee)

To hire a provider, or to join our Provider Registry, call Tim Cooper at PIRS - 530-885-6100, x15.



AccessToCare
FAIR

April 21, 2012, 9 am -1 pm

Opening Ceremony at 9 am
Bayside Church Campus
8191 Sierra College Blvd.
Just North of Douglas Blvd., in Roseville

People with disabilities, Seniors and Veterans can learn about services available, attend seminars, and see the latest products.

Look for PIRS booth!

Hosted by *A Touch of Understanding*

Post-9/11 GI Bill: changes - went into effect on Oct. 1, 2011. Veterans who served on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001 now can use their benefits for a wider range of educational options, including non-college degree (NCD) programs, on-the-job training and registered apprenticeship, flight programs, and correspondence training. www.va.gov

ADA CORNER

Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment Open for Public Comment:

The US Access Board has released its accessibility standards for medical diagnostic equipment and they are seeking your input. These standards build on those developed by the recently completed NIDRR-funded Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Accessible Medical Instrumentation (RERC-AMI). The aim of RERC-AMI is to address the critical need for new medical instrumentation technologies that are universally accessible to all people. The proposed standards provide design criteria that will allow independent access to diagnostic equipment, including types that require transfer from wheelchairs and other mobility aids. Deadline for comments is June 8, 2012.

The standards can be reviewed and comments submitted at:

www.regulations.gov/#%21docketDetail;D=ATBCB-2012-0003.

Free Technical Assistance:

• Pacific Disability and Business Technical Advisory Center (DBTAC) – Hotline provides free detailed explanations on ADA questions and Guidelines. 1-800-949-4232.

www.adapacific.org.

• Dept of Justice ADA webpage:

www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm

• Equal Opportunity Employment Commission – non-discrimination in employment: www.eeoc.gov.

• Job Accommodation Network (JAN): lists examples of accommodations that may be appropriate for various types of disabling conditions. www.jan.wvu.edu

• www.access-board.gov – US Access Board publishes access guidelines based on research about best practices.

• www.DisabilityInfo.gov is a cross-government portal on disability, and is easily accessible.

• www.ncaonline.org- National Center on Accessibility promotes access to recreational facilities, focusing on universal access and practical solutions by linking designers with users.

• www.firstgov.gov – a one-stop source to find any federal agency and other information.

• Federal Transit Administration – ADA Assistance line: 1-888-446-4511 or www.fta.dot.gov/transit_data_info/ada/

• Information on the U.S. Dept of Education enforcement of education rights (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA). www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/index.html

• Discrimination in air transportation and related services. Hotline at 1-800-778-4838 (voice) or 1-800-455-9880 (TTY) to obtain assistance. Complaints must be submitted in writing. <http://airconsumer.ost.dot.gov/>



Advocate for Your Rights!

Never take your independence for granted. Never ignore discrimination. Speak out and defend your rights to access housing, education, employment, transportation, health care, telecommunications, recreation, and all the other benefits our society enjoys. Get involved! Stay informed! Get PIRS advocacy bulletins by mail or email:

Email: <jcowen@pirs.org> and put "Subscribe Advocacy List" in the subject line;

Call – Jeff - 530-885-6100, ext.15; or

Write: Advocate, PIRS, 11768 Atwood Rd. Ste. 29, Auburn, CA 95603.

To Contact Your Legislators online:

President: www.whitehouse.gov

Governor: www.governor.ca.gov

US Senators: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "Senate Directory" at top.

US Representatives: thomas.loc.gov, then choose "House Directory" at top.

State Senate: www.senate.ca.gov

State Assembly: www.assembly.ca.gov

Placer County: www.placer.ca.gov

El Dorado County: co.el-dorado.ca.us

Alpine County: www.alpinecountyca.gov



PIRS Board of Directors is seeking new members. In particular, if you are of Latino, Asian, or African-American descent and have a disability, or have legal or accounting expertise, please consider joining our Board.

Please call for an application:
530-885-6100, in Auburn
1-800-833-3453 outside of Auburn area
530-885-0326 TDD
530-885-3032 Fax

PIRS Board of Directors

Dawn Davidson, President
Robert Hancock, Vice President
Paul Opper, Treasurer
Dan Roye, Secretary
Michael Cummings, Director
Terry Scott, Director
Linda Wisdom, Director

PIRS Board Meeting:

Third Wednesday, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at PIRS.

Disability Rights Organizations:

www.ADAWatch.org: Advancing the Civil Rights of People with Disabilities

National Council on Independent Living:
www.NCIL.org

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living: www.april-rural.org

CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers: www.cfilc.org

Mental Health: www.Bazelon.org

Advocacy for persons with developmental disabilities: [The ARC.org](http://TheARC.org)

Disability Rights California: www.drc.org

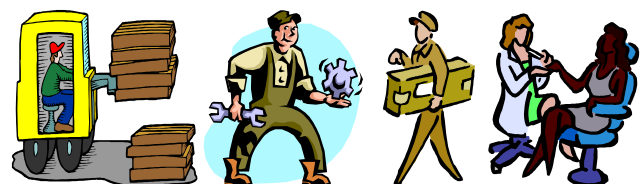
Disability Rights Education Defense Fund:
www.dredf.org

Not Dead Yet: opposing physician-assisted suicide. www.ndy.org

Disability Rights Advocates: dralegal.org

American Association of Persons with Disabilities: www.aapd.org

California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN): Advocacy Without Borders: www.cdcan.us



www.disabilitybenefits101.org

Information on employment, health coverage and other benefits, and how it all relates to working. There's a unique "calculator" that will help you figure it out. You can work!

Placer Independent Resource Services
11768 Atwood Rd., Ste. 29
Auburn, CA 95603

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Auburn, CA
Permit #130

PIRS Hotsheet is available online at
www.pirs.org
Or in alternative formats. Call us at:
530-885-6100 (v); 530-885-0326 (tty)



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

*Please Include
PIRS in Your Will.*

PIRS is funded by grants from the US Dept. of Education/Rehabilitative Services Administration; State Dept. of Rehabilitation; Area 4 Agency on Aging; United Auburn Indian Communities; City of Roseville; Community Technology Foundation of CA; James & Virginia Benson Fund for the Elderly of Placer County of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation; by contract with the Pacific Disability & Business Technical Assistance Center; and by private donations.

We need your support. Please make a donation to PIRS today. Thank you!

PIRS is a Certified Agency of United Way California Capital Region: **Agency # 5751**

