

RESOLUTION

ADOPTION OF THE ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR TERRELL COUNTY, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Terrell County, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is required to address the subject of ensuring that Terrell County services and facilities are accessible to those with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Terrell County now desires to adopt the "ADA Transition Plan" attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and including any attachments thereto, said exhibit being by reference fully included in this resolution as if specifically set out herein;

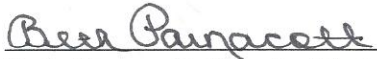
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the said ADA Transition Plan is hereby adopted by the Terrell County Board of Commissioners.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED, AND EFFECTIVE, this 3rd day of July, 2013.



Wilbur T. Gamble, Jr.,
Chairman, Terrell County
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Beth Parnacott, County Clerk
Terrell County
Board of Commissioners

Exhibit "A"

**Terrell County, Georgia
Americans with Disabilities Act
Transition Plan
2013**

Introduction.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. Title II of the ADA specifically addresses the subject of making Terrell County services and County facilities accessible to those with disabilities. With the advent of the Act, designing and constructing facilities for public use that are not accessible by people with disabilities constitutes discrimination.

The Act applies to all facilities, including both facilities built before and after 1990. As a necessary step to a program access plan to provide accessibility under the ADA, state and local governments, public entities or agencies are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities, relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA. The agencies are then required to develop a Program Access Plan, which can be called a Transition Plan, to address any deficiencies. The Plan is intended to achieve the following:

- (1) Identify physical obstacles that limit the accessibility of facilities to individuals with disabilities;
- (2) Describe the methods to be used to make the facilities accessible;
- (3) Provide a schedule for making the access modifications; and,
- (4) Identify the public officials responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan.

The Plan is required to be updated periodically until all accessibility barriers are removed.

Purpose.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the citizens of Terrell County are provided full access to County programs and facilities in as timely manner as is reasonably possible. Terrell County elected officials and staff believe the ability to accommodate disabled persons is essential to good customer service, the quality of life Terrell County residents seek to enjoy, and for effective government.

This Plan has been prepared after a careful study of Terrell County's programs and facilities. The responsibility for the implementation of this plan will be the County ADA Coordinator.

Statement of Accessibility.

Terrell County shall make reasonable modifications in programs and facilities when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the County can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity. Terrell County will not place surcharges on individuals with disabilities to cover the cost involved in making programs accessible.

Identify Physical Obstacles.

All county facilities will be reviewed for "baseline" conditions, including:

1. Access to parking and entry into the facilities themselves;
2. Access to a clear and distinct path of travel;
3. Access to programs and services themselves;
4. Access to public areas and restrooms: and,
5. Access to related amenities.

Terrell County maintains roads and bridges in the unincorporated areas of the county, which are largely rural areas. All intersections and bridges are designed and maintained as governed by the Georgia Department of Transportation's rules and regulations.

The following is a list of County property. An assessment of each of the County's physical facilities will be conducted in conjunction with the execution of this Plan. Deficiencies in the County's physical features of facilities that diminish the ability of disabled persons to benefit from the County's services and facilities will be identified. A correction plan or other course of action will be noted for each deficiency, along with a schedule for completion of the correction in the Action Log which also follows.

FACILITY	YEAR BUILT	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ADDRESS
*County Courthouse	1892	11,186	235 E. Lee Street
Governmental Building	1988	16,504	955 Forrester Drive, SE
Library	1997	10,504	913 Forrester Drive, SE
**Correctional Institute	1947	7965	3110 Albany Highway
Road Department	N/A	N/A	3110 Albany Highway
Headstart/Child Development	1988	7,020	2526 Albany Highway
***County Jail	2009	13,756	3108 Albany Highway
****Armory Bldg/CH Annex	1951	13,764	499 Rountree Drive, SW
Tax Building (Brannon Bldg)	1909	8,100	187 E. Lee Street
Ballfields/Recreation Dept.	2009	35 acres	1455 Jimmy Raines Road
Health Department	1994	6,572	955 Forrester Drive
4-H Pavilion/Agriculture Bldg	1985	6,080	2674 Albany Highway
Resource Center	2002	5,055	542 Oak Street
Terrell/Lee MR Center	1933	7,542	508 Oak Street
Maintenance Shop	1985	4,000	3110 Albany Highway
E911 Operations Center	1956	4,570	638 Forrester Drive
Airport	1964	1,028	2678 Albany Highway
Fire Tanker Garage	1965	3,828	3110 Albany Highway

R* - The Courthouse was completely renovated in 2009 and meets ADA requirements as of the time of renovation.

** - The Correctional Institute was expanded in 1999 and meets ADA requirements as of the time of expansion.

*** - The Jail was built in 2009 and meets ADA requirements as of the time of construction.

**** - Armory Building was renovated in 2007 and meets ADA requirements as of the time of the renovation.

Also, listed below are the county-owned or sanctioned* voting precincts in Terrell County:

1. Precinct # 1 – Dawson – Terrell County Governmental Building
2. Precinct #2 – Sasser – Sasser City Hall
3. Precinct #3 – Bronwood – Bronwood City Hall
4. Precinct #4 – Parrott – Parrott City Hall
5. Precinct #5 – Graves – Graves United Methodist Church
6. Precinct #6 – Herod/Dover – Pleasant Hill Baptist Church (Herod/Dover Rd)

*All voting precincts have been renovated to meet basic ADA requirements.

Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act ADA POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Terrell County Board of Commissioners, as governing authority for Terrell County, Georgia will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: Terrell County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communications: Terrell County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Terrell County's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: Terrell County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in Terrell County offices where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Terrell County, should contact Beth Parnacott, who serves as the Terrell County ADA Coordinator, as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require that Terrell County take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service or activity of Terrell County is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator.

Terrell County will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of service, activities, programs, or benefits by the Terrell County Board of Commissioners. The Terrell County Rules and Regulations and Personnel Policies govern employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities, upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/his or her designee as soon as possible, but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Beth Parnacott, County Clerk
ADA Coordinator
P.O. Box 525
Dawson, GA 39842

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator of Terrell County or his or her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or his or her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Terrell County Board of Commissioners and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his or her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the County Commission Chairman or his or her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the County Commission Chairman or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the County Commission Chairman or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee, appeals to the County Commission Chairman or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by Terrell County for at least three (3) years. The written complaint and responses will be retained in the County Clerk's Office.

ADA PLAN OF ACTION

Through this transition plan, the following will be addressed:

- a. identify physical obstacles in facilities that limit the accessibility of Terrell County's programs, services, or activities to people with disabilities;
- b. describe in detail the methods Terrell County will use to make the facilities accessible;
- c. provide a schedule for making the access modifications;
- d. provide a yearly schedule for making the modifications if the transition plan is more than one year long; and,
- e. indicate the name of the official who is responsible for implementing the transition plan and post in each facility.

County owned facilities:

1. County Courthouse: none _____
2. County Governmental Building: none _____
3. Library: none
4. Correctional Institute: none
5. Road Department: none
6. Headstart/Child Development: none
7. County Jail: none
8. Armory Building/Courthouse Annex: none
9. Tax Building/Brannon Building: none
10. Ballfields/Recreation Department: none
11. Health Department: none
12. 4-H Pavilion/Agriculture Building: none
13. Resource Center: none
14. Terrell/Lee MR Center: none
15. Maintenance Shop: none
16. E-911 Center: none
17. Airport: none
18. Fire Tanker Garage: none

County-owned or Sanctioned Voting Precincts:

1. Precinct # 1 – Dawson – Terrell County Governmental Building: none
2. Precinct #2 – Sasser – Sasser City Hall: none
3. Precinct #3 – Bronwood – Bronwood City Hall: none
4. Precinct #4 – Parrott – Parrott City
Hall: none
5. Precinct #5 – Graves – Graves United
Methodist Church: none
6. Precinct #6 – Herod/Dover – Pleasant
Hill Baptist Church (Herod/Dover Rd): none

Title II of the ADA at 28 CFR Section 35.150Id)(2) provides that, if a public entity has responsibility or authority over streets, roads, or walkways, its transition plan shall include a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs, giving priority to walkways serving entities covered by the ADA, including State and local government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, and employers, followed by walkways serving other areas.

Action Steps for Transition Plan

The action plan shall be executed as follows:

1. Identify staff and/or consultants to review each facility for compliance. The *ADAJ504* Coordinator should be the lead staff member in the development and implementation of the transition plan so that efforts to achieve and maintain accessibility can be effectively coordinated so that there is balance in the transition plan between programs and services, buildings and facilities, as well as pedestrian right-of-way facilities. An advisory group will assist the ADA coordinator in the development and implementation of the transition plan. Terrell County may retain a consultant to assist with the transition plan, if deemed necessary.
2. Establish the public involvement process by which the disability community and others will participate. The advisory group/task force should also include private citizens or representatives of other agencies with various forms of disabilities, or who will be impacted by the transition plan to make sure all needs are considered.
3. Identify all facilities used by each of Terrell County's programs and services. With respect to pedestrian right-of-way facilities in particular, include an inventory and/or map of roads/streets, sidewalks, intersections that would need to be made accessible.
4. Map out the usage and specialized features of each county facility. This includes walkways and approaches to each facility from parking lots, bus stops and other transportation, doors and entrances, restrooms, vertical access (elevators and stairways), drinking fountains, play and picnic areas in parks, etc.
5. Choose a survey "tool" or list of standards. This must include evaluating for access by wheelchair users and other mobility-impaired people who would require the use of curb ramps. The recipient can also evaluate for access for visually, hearing and cognitively impaired people, if the transition plan also incorporates sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other pedestrian facilities besides curb ramps.
6. Incorporate the Terrell County's capital improvement plans since new construction and planned alternations to pedestrian facilities may result in the incorporation of accessible features more easily and less expensively.
7. Identify funding and time frames.

Elements of the Transition Plan

Name, title, office address, phone number, and email address of Terrell County official responsible for the coordination, development, and implementation of the Transition Plan:

Beth Parnacott, County Clerk
ADA Coordinator
P.O. Box 525
Dawson, GA 39842
beth001@windstream.net

Advisory committee members' names, titles, and addresses:

Wilbur T. Gamble, Jr., Chairman, 421 Wilbur Gamble Rd., Dawson, GA 39842
Billy McClung, EMA Director – 3110 Albany Highway, Dawson, GA 39842
Charlene Farmer, Human Resources, P. O. Box 525, Dawson, GA 39842

Schedule or work plan for steps to be taken to develop and implement Terrell County's Transition Plan:

When deficiencies are identified, the implementation should be completed within 6-12 months. Funding to be used will come from Department budgets that are responsible for each facility.