

# WHAT'S IN THE ADA, ANYWAY?

## 5 Titles You Need to Know.



### TITLE IV: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telephone companies must provide **continued voice transmission relay services** that allow people with hearing and speech impairments to communicate over the telephone. It also states that federally funded television public service messages need to be closed captioned for viewers with hearing impairments.

Title IV enables telephone conversations between people with and without speech or hearing disabilities by requiring:



Communication assistants who can relay content of calls between users of text telephones and traditional handsets.



Interstate relay services available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



Services must be "functionally equivalent" to standard telephone services

Two other laws govern accessible communications: **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act** and the **Telecommunications Act of 1996**.

- **Section 508** requires federal agencies to follow the electronic access standards drafted by the U.S. Access Board
- **Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act** requires that offerings from manufacturers and providers of telecommunications equipment and services are accessible to persons with disabilities
- **Section 305 of this act** requires video programming distributors make video programming accessible for individuals with hearing impairments through closed captioning

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