

# ADA Resource Card

## Virginia's Judicial System



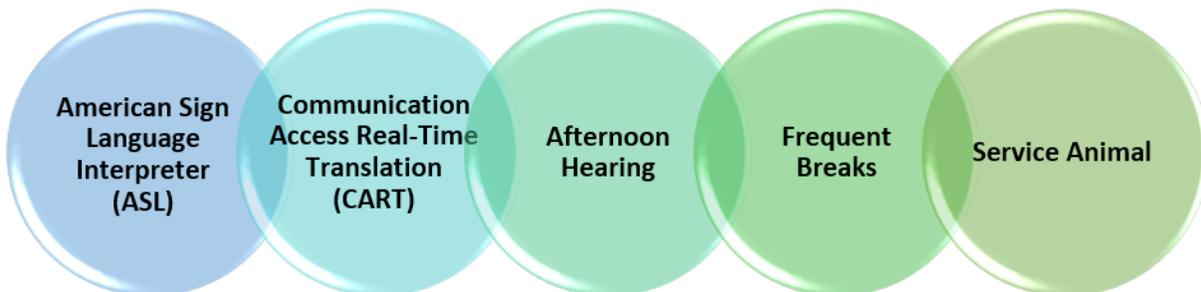
### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted to ensure that all qualified individuals with disabilities enjoy the same access and opportunities available to persons without disabilities. It guarantees equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services, and telecommunications. The Virginia Judicial System is committed to providing equal access to, and full participation in, courts by people with disabilities, including attorneys, litigants, defendants, witnesses, victims, members of the public and prospective and current employees.

#### Important Areas and Considerations to Improve Accessibility

- ◆ Parking
- ◆ Entrance
- ◆ Signage
- ◆ Bathrooms
- ◆ Accessible Route
- ◆ Counters
- ◆ Public Areas
- ◆ Courtrooms

#### Types of Reasonable Accommodations



#### Accommodations That Have Been Considered Unreasonable\*

- Allowing someone to request an attorney as a form of accommodation
- Requesting anything other than a dog or miniature horse as a service animal
- Allowing someone to record his/her own proceeding

*\*Not required under the ADA*

**If you receive a request for accommodation, please address it as soon as possible. You may contact the ADA Coordinator if you need assistance.**

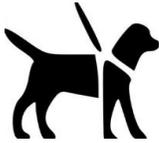
**ADA Coordinator**  
Renée Fleming Mills, Ph.D.  
[adaoffice@vacourts.gov](mailto:adaoffice@vacourts.gov)  
(804) 786-6455  
(804) 786-0109 (fax)

#### Website

<http://www.vacourts.gov/courts/ada/home.html>

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### Service Animals:

- Any dog (all breeds and weights) individually trained to do work or perform a task for the benefit of an individual with a disability
- Miniature horses - must make reasonable modifications to allow

*\*\*Cannot require ID, license, certification, cape, or leash*

### Examples of Service Animal Tasks:

- Guide individuals with impaired vision
- Assist before or during seizures
- Alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing to people or sounds
- Provide non-violent protection or rescue work
- Pull a wheelchair
- Alert to presence of allergens
- Provide physical support or assist with balance
- Prevent or interrupt impulsive/destructive behavior



## Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH)

VDDHH provides the Judicial System with qualified interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing and real-time captioning services to ensure effective communication.

- Sign language interpreter request forms - email information in advance to VDDHH for coordination of coverage for a court assignment at [ispRequests@vddhh.virginia.gov](mailto:ispRequests@vddhh.virginia.gov)
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Services – When an in-person interpreter is not available, and VRI services are needed, please contact [adaoffice@vacourts.gov](mailto:adaoffice@vacourts.gov)

### Did You Know?

- ◆ Effective communication during interpreting services may involve multiple interpreters or interpreters with a particular skillset.
- ◆ Non-traditional power-driven mobility devices (like Segways) used as mobility aids by people with disabilities must be allowed in many circumstances.