

Handicapped Accessibility

The Diocese is committed to providing a barrier free environment throughout its facilities wherever and whenever possible. All areas of newly designed or newly constructed buildings and facilities are required to be accessible. The Diocese will also require handicapped accessible when existing buildings and facilities are undergoing sufficient renovations.

Although a ramp, one inch per lineal foot, is one of the more obvious, there are other elements that can improve the comfort and safety of people with physical disabilities.

- ◆ Parking spaces for disabled people and accessible passenger loading zones that serve a particular building shall be the spaces or zones located closest to the nearest accessible entrance on an accessible route.
- ◆ Accessible parking spaces shall be designated as reserved for the disabled by a sign showing the symbol of accessibility.
- ◆ Door openings that are wide enough for a wheelchair to pass through can make all of the space in a building accessible. The ADA suggest a clearance of at least 32 inches when a door is open at 90-degree.
- ◆ Provide smooth transitions between different types of flooring and limit carpet pile thickness to one-half inch.
- ◆ Install grab bars at toilets, tubs and showers. The ADA provides specific criteria for the size and placement of grab bars.
- ◆ Install sinks no more than 34 inches above the finished floor with at least 27 inches of knee clearance below. Also, wrap all exposed plumbing pipes with foam materials to prevent leg injury.
- ◆ The lowest edge of a mirror above a sink should be no more than 36 inches above the floor.
- ◆ Provide a 60-inch wheelchair turnaround in a bathroom.
- ◆ Install a toilet that is 17 inches to 19 inches above the floor (to the top of the toilet seat).
- ◆ In the kitchen, counters should measure no more than 34 inches above the finished floor and should project out no more than 21 inches.

More information on accessible design can be obtained at the ADA website at www.uskoj.gov-crt/ada/adahom1.htm and at www.accessboard.gov.