



United States Department of the Interior


OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTIVE NO. 2007-02

TO: Bureau and Office Equal Opportunity Officers

FROM: Sharon D. Eller 
Director, Office of Civil Rights

SUBJECT: Delegation of Federal Assistance and Americans with Disabilities Act
Title II Complaints to Bureaus for Processing

Departmental Manual, 205 DM 17, effective February 3, 1996, delegates authority to all Bureaus for processing civil rights complaints, conducting investigations, and providing technical assistance and training to state and local entities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and under Federal financial assistance requirements (i.e. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Title II of the ADA designates the Department of the Interior (DOI) as a compliance enforcement agency and provides requirements for State and local entities, whether or not they receive Federal assistance.

Most complaints are forwarded to the DOI by the Department of Justice. Some complaints are submitted directly to the DOI for processing. A great majority of the complaints received relate to section 504, both federally assisted and conducted, and the ADA. In the past, most of the ADA complaints were assigned to the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service with a few to the Bureau of Reclamation.

This Directive clarifies this delegation of authority to process civil rights complaints and provides notification that all Bureaus will now be more involved in processing civil rights complaints under Title II of the ADA. An ADA Title II complaint against any State or local entity may be assigned to any Bureau, whether or not it is also covered by section 504, because receiving federal assistance is not a criterion for coverage under the ADA. Section 504 complaints relating to a specific Bureau's federally conducted program will, of course, be assigned to that specific Bureau.

The involvement of all Bureaus in the ADA covered complaint process will provide valuable experience for Bureau staff because the accessibility requirements for ADA are basically the same for Bureau federally conducted programs. Also, it will provide more

efficient and timely complaint processing of ADA covered complaints, which are the majority of our workload in the Department.

Distribution: All Bureau/Office Equal Opportunity Officers

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Expiration: When Superseded