



## ACCESS SURVEY OF PARISH AND DIOCESAN FACILITIES



The measurements indicated throughout this survey are based on national standards developed by the American National Standards Institutes (#A117.1, 1986 edition), and the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards.

Specific requirements may vary by state.

“NO” answers indicate areas of non-access which need to be addressed in providing full access to people with disabilities.

**ACCESS TO WORSHIP**

**YES**   **NO**

- 1. Are there one or two pews 32" apart for use by people who use crutches or walkers?      —      —
- 2. Have the ends of several pews been removed to allow people in wheelchairs to sit with family?      —      —
- 3. Are there padded seats for some pews, or seat pads to distribute?      —      —
- 4. Is there an amplification system for persons who are hard of hearing?  
If yes, what type \_\_\_\_\_      —      —
- 5. a. Are there areas of adequate lighting to enable participation in worship?      —      —  
    b. Is there adequate lighting on speakers and interpreters, with no shadows on either?      —      —
- 6. a. Are missalettes/hymnals available for visually impaired people in:  
    - large print?      —      —  
    - braille?      —      —  
    b. Is audio-description also available?      —      —
- 7. a. Are there interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing parishioners?  
    If yes, are they:  
    - sign language?      —      —  
    - oral?      —      —  
    b. In lieu of interpreters, is there real-time captioning available?      —      —
- 8. Is the sanctuary accessible so that mobility-impaired parishioners can serve as Lectors or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion?      —      —
- 9. Have ushers been trained to offer appropriate assistance?      —      —

**PARKING**

**YES**   **NO**

- 1. Are there reserved spaces for people with disabilities?  
If yes, actual number \_\_\_\_\_      —      —
- 2. Are reserved spaces at least 8' wide?  
If no, actual width \_\_\_\_\_      —      —  
Is there an adjacent access aisle at least 5' wide (this is the ideal)?      —      —

**PARKING** *(continued)*

**YES**   **NO**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 3. Are the reserved spaces and access aisles paved, even if the rest of the parking lot is not paved? | — | — |
| 4. Are reserved spaces posted with an access symbol not obscured by a vehicle parked in the space?    | — | — |
| 5. Are reserved spaces on a level surface?  | — | — |
| 6. Is there a 3' wide curb cut between the parking lot and sidewalk, with a slope of 1":12"?          | — | — |
| Actual width of curb cut? _____   |   |   |
| Actual slope of curb cut? _____   |   |   |
| 7. Is reserved space close to an accessible entrance and on an accessible route?                      | — | — |
| 8. Is the path between reserved space and accessible entrance free of obstacles?                      | — | — |
| If no, describe _____   |   |   |

**BUILDING APPROACH AND ENTRANCE**

• **Walkways**

**YES**   **NO**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Do walkways have non-slip, paved surfaces?                                 | — | — |
| 2. Are walkways at least 3' wide?   | — | — |
| If no, actual width _____   |   |   |
| 3. Are walkways of a continuing common surface, and not interrupted by steps? | — | — |
| 4. Are there any protruding objects in the walkway?                           | — | — |

• **Ramps**

**YES**   **NO**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Do ramps have:                      |   |   |
| a. slope no greater than 1 rise in 12? | — | — |
| b. width of no less than 36"?          | — | — |

**Ramps** *(continued)*

**YES**   **NO**

- 2. Do ramps have side rails on both sides?  
a. Are side rails 30"-34" above the surface of the ramp?  
b. Do side rails extend 1' beyond the top and bottom of the ramp?
- 3. Do ramps have a non-slip surface?
- 4. Do ramps have at least a 5' clearance (landing) at the top and bottom?  
If no, actual dimension \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Do ramps have level platforms at 30' intervals and whenever they turn (for purposes of rest and safety)?

• **Wheelchair-lift**

- 1. Is platform at least 42" x 48"?  
If no, actual dimension \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Can lift be operated by persons with disabilities without assistance?
- 3. Is lift secured to prevent accidents or misuse?

• **Entrance**

- 1. Is at least one primary entrance to building usable by people with mobility impairments?
- 2. Do doors have a clear opening of 32" or more?  
If no, actual width? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. If doors have a closer, is there a time-delay device?
- 4. When closed, are doors that are in a series separated by at least 4' plus the width of any door swinging into the space?  
If no, actual distance \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Are all thresholds level (less than 1/4 inch), or beveled, up to 1/2 inch high?
- 6. a. Are door handles 48" high or less?  
b. Are door handles operable with a closed fist?

**Wheelchair-lift – Entrance** *(continued)*

**YES**   **NO**

7. In hallways and aisles, are all obstacles cane-detectable (located within 27" of the floor or protruding less than 4" from the wall)?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

• **Stairs**

1. Do stairs have a non-slip surface?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

2. Is there a continuous and stable handrail along both sides of the stair?  
If no, is there a handrail on one side?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

3. Is there textural or color change at the top and bottom of steps to alert persons who are blind or visually impaired?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

4. Are steps well lit?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

**INTERIOR ACCESS**

• **Restrooms**

1. Is there at least one accessible restroom provided on each floor?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

2. Do entranceways, doors, and vision screens allow 32" clearance?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

3. Is there at least one toilet stall that:

a. has a 48" clear depth from door closing to front of commode?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

b. has a door that is 36" wide & swings out?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

c. has grab bars 36" long on each side or on one side and rear wall, 33"-36" above floor, fastened securely to the wall at the ends and center?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

d. has commode with seat 17" to 19" from floor?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

e. has flush control no more than 44" above floor?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

4. Are sinks wall-mounted with rim no higher than 34" from floor?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

5. Do sinks have faucets operable with a closed fist?  
(Single-lever type handles not requiring hand grip are preferred.)      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

6. Are exposed drain pipes and hot water pipes covered or insulated?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_

7. Are some mirrors and shelves at a height with the bottom no higher than 40" above floor (or slanted to allow vision at that level)?      \_\_\_      \_\_\_





This resource has been reprinted with permission from:  
**Opening Doors**, National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, Washington, D.C.

**Please note:**

**This is an Assessment Tool** to help identify the needs of your building facilities,  
**This is not a tool** that mandates a parish to conform to what has been identified.



*Considering that there tend to be changes with regulations and guidelines,  
we suggest that*

**\*\*Before undertaking any renovations for ADA compliance\*\***

Parishes SHOULD contact the Archdiocese of New Orleans

**Building Office (504) 861-6210**

**Catholic Mutual Group (504) 527-5760**

*Prepared by the Archdiocesan Commission for Persons with Disabilities*

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