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Information Technology

# Overview of the Technology Accessibility Rules

8 CCR 1501-11 Rules Establishing Technology Accessibility Standards

Karen Pellegrin, Senior Manager of the Technology Accessibility Program  
Alice Huyler, Rulemaking Administrator

# Agenda



- General introduction
- Rule basics
- Scenarios
- Actions to take
- Where to find resources

# Introduction



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# What is Digital Accessibility, Anyway?



Everyone can participate, regardless of ability.

This includes things like:

- Closed captions on videos for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Alternative text on images that a screen reader can describe to someone who is blind.
- Keyboard navigation for people who can't use a mouse.



Image by Google Gemini

# Objectives



**What:** Understand key aspects of digital accessibility rules

**How:** Know the basics, know about resources, and talk with your teams

**Why:** Each county makes good strategic decisions to prevent over/underwork, inefficient work, and manage risk exposure



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# Rule Basics



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# We aren't perfect by July 1. What now?



Take a breath and use the rules. Here's how:

1. Post an accessibility statement describing how to request assistance (and of course respond when people make a request)
2. Meet at least 1 or a combination of the 5 options for compliance

# 11.6 Technology Accessibility Statement



An accessibility statement shall include at a minimum:

- **A commitment to advancing technology accessibility and the steps you're taking to remove barriers**
- Responding in a reasonable amount of time
- Prominent notification of:
  - More than one contact method (e.g. phone, email, contact form, etc)
  - How to request accommodations or modifications
  - How to report inaccessible technologies
  - **Any applicable existing grievance procedures (e.g. ADA Title I or Title II)**



Photo by [Kindel Media](#)

Bonus Tool: [Example Accessibility Statement](#)

# 11.5 Compliance Requirements



Make your technology accessible by meeting at least one of the following:

- A. Meeting the technical standards (i.e., WCAG)
- B. Utilizing a conforming alternate version
- C. Providing reasonable accommodations or modifications when requested
- D. Publishing on your website an accessibility plan** that shows evidence of making good faith progress on your plan to remove accessibility barriers
- E. Procuring the solution that best meets both the technical standards and your business needs



Image by Google Gemini



# Published Accessibility Plan

High level annual summary  
demonstrating that you're working on  
accessibility and making progress

Bonus tool: [Example Evidence of Progress on an Accessibility Plan](#)

2024 rules - Be able to **provide evidence** of making good faith progress.

2025 rules - **Publish** that evidence on your website. Similar to what many counties have been doing for the Grace Period Bill (HB24-1454).

# 11.7 Exceptions



Exceptions from complying with the technical standards (WCAG).

You still need to provide assistance on request.

Common exceptions:

- Archives
- Internal drafts and working documents
- Content posted by a third party that is not under your control through a contract
- Pre-existing documents from before 7/1/2024

The rules include additional exceptions.

Bonus tool: [How to Navigate Exceptions](#)



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# Scenarios



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# What should we do?



It's not in active use.

- Draft versions of a presentation that we haven't finalized
- Digitized historical photos of our town



We haven't gotten to it in our priority list yet.

- Software application we're going to retire next year
- Database that few people use



This falls under an exception.

- Instagram posts from 2023
- Previous years of reports that we're required to post on our website

# The Outcome is the Same



# Action and Resources



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# Key Actions



1. Review your county [accessibility statement](#) and update if needed
2. Have a solid [plan for responding to requests](#) for assistance or reports of inaccessible technology
3. Optional but a good idea - publish your [accessibility plan](#)

# Recommended Actions



- Make a strategic plan and prioritize your efforts - [First Steps Toward Complying \(Prioritize\)](#)
- Document your efforts - optional [Product Accessibility Status Template](#)
- Contact legal counsel with big questions
  - Make sure you're meeting the requirements for particular areas and especially for undue burden.
  - Get legal counsel and your executives on the same page.

# More Help



- [Plain Language Guide to the Rules](#)
- [Tips, Guidance, Examples, and Templates for the Rules](#)
- [Guide to Accessible Web Services](#)
- [Rulemaking](#)
- [oit\\_accessibility@state.co.us](mailto:oit_accessibility@state.co.us)



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# Questions?