

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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## 1800s

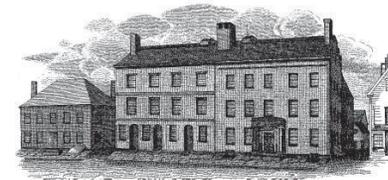
1817

Founding of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut  
First school for disabled children established in the Western Hemisphere

A brief history of the American School for the Deaf: [http://www.asd-1817.org/uploaded/pdf/hartford\\_history.pdf](http://www.asd-1817.org/uploaded/pdf/hartford_history.pdf)

More information at: <http://www.asd-1817.org/page.cfm?p=10>

Kid friendly site provided by ASD: <http://www.deafis.org/>



1832

The Perkins School for the Blind in Boston admits its first two students, the sisters Sophia and Abbey Carter  
Helen Keller attends this school.

History of Perkins School for the Blind can be found at: <http://www.perkins.org/about-us/history/>



1848

Perkins Institution expands adding wing that becomes first residential institution for people with mental retardation. Over the next century, hundreds of thousands of developmentally disabled children and adults institutionalized, many for their entire lives

1883

Sir Francis Galton coins the term “EUGENICS” in his book, Essays in Eugenics

Eugenics movement causes passing of laws prohibiting people with disabilities from marrying or having children, leads to institutionalization and forced sterilization of disabled children and adults

To find more on the Eugenics Movement in America visit: <http://www.eugenicsarchive.org/eugenics/>

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## 1900-1940

1912

Henry Goddard's best-selling book The Kallikak Family proposes that disability is linked to immorality and advances the agenda of the eugenics movement. More about Goddard and his theories at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~intell/kallikak.shtml>

1918

Smith-Sears Veterans Rehabilitation Act provides for vocational rehabilitation and return to civil employment for disabled U.S. veterans

More at: <http://rds.colostate.edu/history-of-legislation>

1924

The Commonwealth of Virginia passes a state law that allowing for sterilization (without consent) of individuals found to be "feebleminded, insane, depressed, mentally handicapped, epileptic, etc. Alcoholics and drug addicts also sterilized.. More at: <http://jonathanharawsu.wordpress.com/>,

[http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/buck\\_v\\_bell\\_1927](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/buck_v_bell_1927)

and

[http://www.facinghistory.org/sites/facinghistory.org/files/race\\_membership\\_ch6.pdf](http://www.facinghistory.org/sites/facinghistory.org/files/race_membership_ch6.pdf)



Read about Carrie Buck at:  
<http://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2011/01/24/eugenics-the-story-of-carrie-buck/>

1935

League for the Physically Handicapped forms in New York City to protest discrimination by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Members of the League hold a nine day sit-in which eventually leading to creation of 1500 jobs in New York City. More at: <http://jah.oxfordjournals.org/content/87/3/888.extract>,

[http://www.disabilityworld.org/10-12\\_00/il/league.htm](http://www.disabilityworld.org/10-12_00/il/league.htm) and <http://www.disabilityhistory.org/militanc.html>



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The Social Security Act (1935) was passed establishing federally funded senior citizens' benefits and funds to states for assistance to blind individuals and disabled children. More at: <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=68>  
<http://www.ssa.gov/history/35act.html>



1939

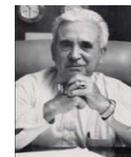
World War II begins

Hitler orders “mercy killing” of the sick and disabled. Nazi euthanasia program (code name Aktion T-4) begins its mission to eliminate “life unworthy of life”. <http://www.xtimeline.com/evt/view.aspx?id=18677> ,  
<http://www.historyplace.com/worldwar2/timeline/euthanasia.htm>, <http://drvitelli.typepad.com/providentia/2007/04/t4.html>

1940

National Federation of the Blind is born in Wilkes-Barre, PA <http://www.nfb.org/>, <http://www.nfb.org/about-the-nfb>,  
<http://www.nfb.org/Images/nfb/Publications/bm/bm06/bm0605/bm060503.htm>

American Foundation of the Physically Handicapped is founded and calls are made for an end to job discrimination [http://books.google.com/books?id=NWUKMZKobNQC&pg=PA302&lpg=PA302&dq=Paul+Strachan+founder+of+American+Federation+of+the+Physically+Handicapped&source=bl&ots=xQpFexuT\\_y&sig=laUuvGYYxScKkrTHgLPpM12CxN8&hl=en#v=onepage&q=Paul%20Strachan%20founder%20of%20American%20Federation%20of%20the%20Physically%20Handicapped&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=NWUKMZKobNQC&pg=PA302&lpg=PA302&dq=Paul+Strachan+founder+of+American+Federation+of+the+Physically+Handicapped&source=bl&ots=xQpFexuT_y&sig=laUuvGYYxScKkrTHgLPpM12CxN8&hl=en#v=onepage&q=Paul%20Strachan%20founder%20of%20American%20Federation%20of%20the%20Physically%20Handicapped&f=false),



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## 1941-1949

1942

Henry Viscardi, Red Cross Volunteer, trains hundreds of disabled soldiers to use prosthetic limbs

[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/obituaries/articles/2004/04/16/henry\\_viscardi\\_jr\\_at\\_age\\_91\\_leading\\_advocate\\_for\\_disabled/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/obituaries/articles/2004/04/16/henry_viscardi_jr_at_age_91_leading_advocate_for_disabled/?page=full), <http://librarymedia.org/aging/Titles/legacy.htm>, <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/04/16/nyregion/henry-viscardi-jr-a-voice-for-the-disabled-dies-at-91.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm> ,

1943

LaFollette-Barden Vocational Rehabilitation Act adds physical rehabilitation to the goals of federally funded vocational rehabilitation programs and provides funding for particular health care services

More at: <http://rds.colostate.edu/history-of-legislation>

1944



Howard Rusk begins a rehabilitation program for disabled airmen at the U.S. Army Air Force Convalescent Center in Pawling NY- Rehabilitative medicine becomes a new medical specialty More at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2376867/> , [http://thephideltlegacy.com/articles/top\\_twenty/top\\_twenty.html](http://thephideltlegacy.com/articles/top_twenty/top_twenty.html)

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1945

President Harry Truman signs PL-176 creating annual National Employ the Handicapped Week  
More at: <http://disabilityhistoryweek.org/timelines/?page=6> ,  
[http://www.fws.gov/pacific/aba/dcr/aep\\_sep\\_disability.htm](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/aba/dcr/aep_sep_disability.htm)



1946

Hill-Burton Act authorizes federal grants to states for the construction of hospitals, public health centers and health facilities for rehabilitation of people with disabilities

National Mental Health foundation is founded by WWII conscientious objectors who served as attendants at state mental institutions rather than in war. Abusive conditions at these facilities is exposed, deinstitutionalization becomes more the impetus More at: [www.disabilitystudiesforteachers.org/files/NMHF.doc](http://www.disabilitystudiesforteachers.org/files/NMHF.doc)

1947

President's Committee on National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week held in Washington, D.C.  
More at: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=87114> ,

Paralyzed Veterans of America organized  
PVA website at

<http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.6305401/k.BCBB/Home.htm>



1948

University of Illinois at Galesburg disabled students' program is officially founded and becomes a prototype for disabled student programs and independent living centers across America

We Are Not Alone (WANA), a mental patients' self-help group is organized at Rockland State Hospital in New York City  
More at: [http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php?title=Rockland\\_State\\_Hospital](http://www.asylumprojects.org/index.php?title=Rockland_State_Hospital) ,  
<http://www.onourownville.org/consumer.html> ,  
[http://www.power2u.org/articles/recovery/model\\_recovery.html](http://www.power2u.org/articles/recovery/model_recovery.html)

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities



1950-1959

1950

Mary Switzer appointed Director of U.S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation where she advocates and emphasizes independent living as a quality of life issue Find more information about Switzer at:

[http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.aph.org/hall\\_fame/bios/photos/switzer\\_small.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.aph.org/hall\\_fame/bios/switzer.html&h=150&w=120&sz=3&tbnid=4TmRKhr28u2sM&tbnh=0&tbnw=0&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dmary%2Bswitzer%26tbm%3Disch%26tbo%3Du&zoom=1&q=mary+switzer&usq=\\_\\_Fuc20D7ZHN7JovmHy4iMGAX6UWs=&docid=JSmDdy3RQhDInM&sa=X&ei=CvJYUJ6oFlma9QSTuYHwCg&sqi=2&ved=0CJsBENUX](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.aph.org/hall_fame/bios/photos/switzer_small.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.aph.org/hall_fame/bios/switzer.html&h=150&w=120&sz=3&tbnid=4TmRKhr28u2sM&tbnh=0&tbnw=0&prev=/search%3Fq%3Dmary%2Bswitzer%26tbm%3Disch%26tbo%3Du&zoom=1&q=mary+switzer&usq=__Fuc20D7ZHN7JovmHy4iMGAX6UWs=&docid=JSmDdy3RQhDInM&sa=X&ei=CvJYUJ6oFlma9QSTuYHwCg&sqi=2&ved=0CJsBENUX)

Social Security Amendments establish a federal-state program to aid disabled persons

1953

Los Angeles County, California provides at-home attendant care to adults with polio

Related articles and links: <http://www.achievement.org/autodoc/page/sal0bio-1>  
[http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/bacterial\\_viral/polio.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/bacterial_viral/polio.html)



1954

Social Security Act of 1935 is amended to include a freeze provision for workers who are forced by disability to leave the workforce.

1956

Social Security Disability Insurance program begins for disabled workers aged 50 to 64

More information at: <http://www.allsup.com/about-ssdi/ssdi-overview.aspx> , [http://www.ehow.com/about\\_5397194\\_social-security-disability-act.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_5397194_social-security-disability-act.html)

1958

Social Security Amendments extend benefits to dependents of disabled workers

Rehabilitation Gazette (formerly Toomeyville Gazette), a grassroots publication, becomes early voice for disability rights

See related videos at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDu1-vxlvvU>, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vqw-G5XPCI>

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1960-1969

1960

Social Security Amendments eliminate restriction that disabled workers receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits must 50 or older

1961

President Kennedy appoints a special panel on mental retardation

More at: [http://www.mncdd.org/parallels/five/5c/5c\\_html/ht1.html](http://www.mncdd.org/parallels/five/5c/5c_html/ht1.html) , <http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/JFK-and-People-with-Intellectual-Disabilities.aspx> <http://www.mnddc.org/parallels2/one/007.htm>



The American National Standard Institute (ANSI) publishes specifications for making building accessible to and useable by the physically handicapped which will become the basis for architectural access codes.

Related Articles: <http://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/AccessibilityPostDisaster.pdf>

[http://global.ihs.com/standards.cfm?publisher=ANSI&RID=Z56&MID=5280&s\\_kwcid=TC|5891|a.n.s.i.||S|p|13648887554&qclid=C135w7LhwbICFQcGnQodMx4ASA](http://global.ihs.com/standards.cfm?publisher=ANSI&RID=Z56&MID=5280&s_kwcid=TC|5891|a.n.s.i.||S|p|13648887554&qclid=C135w7LhwbICFQcGnQodMx4ASA)

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1962

Edward Roberts sues to gain admission to the University of California  
More at: <http://content.dcf.ks.gov/kni/training/Rights/Disability%20Rights%20Outline.txt>

1963

President Kennedy calls for a reduction of number of persons confined to residential institutions for mentally ill and mentally retarded which will result in deinstitutionalization and increased community services

Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Health Centers Construction Act authorizes grants for the construction of public and private nonprofit community mental health centers

1964

Civil Rights Act is signed by President Lyndon Johnson prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, national origin and creed

Additional articles: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/civil-rights-act/> ,  
<http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/statutes/titlevii.cfm>

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAcivil64.htm>

1966

President Johnson establishes a committee on mental retardation Related articles:

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/pcpid/pcpid\\_history.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/pcpid/pcpid_history.html)

<http://www.archives.gov/research/americans-with-disabilities/presidential-documents.html>

[http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayEO.cfm?id=EO\\_12994](http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov/displayEO.cfm?id=EO_12994)



1968

The Architectural Barriers Act prohibits architectural barriers in all federally owned or leased buildings

More at: [http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/Architectural\\_Barriers.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/Architectural_Barriers.htm)

<http://www.access-board.gov/about/laws/aba.htm> [http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/ASTAND/ada\\_aba.pdf](http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/ASTAND/ada_aba.pdf)

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## 1970-1979

1970

Urban Mass Transit Act requires all new mass transit to be equipped with wheelchair lifts

Additional related information at: <http://www.ieccil.org/independent-living/independent-living-history>

<http://www.apta.com/gap/policyresearch/Documents/UMTActSummary.PDF> <http://ntl.bts.gov/data/Chapter%203.pdf>

The Rolling Quads are started by Ed Roberts at UC Berkeley

Related articles at: <http://www.mtstcil.org/skills/il-2-intro.html>

[http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/readings\\_in\\_IL/peer1.html](http://www.ilru.org/html/publications/readings_in_IL/peer1.html)

Disabled in Action started by Judy Heumann at Long Island University in New York

More at: <http://disabledinaction.org/>

1971

National Center for Law and the Handicapped is founded at University of Notre Dame becoming the first legal advocacy center in the U.S. for people with disabilities

More information at these sites:

[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?\\_nfpb=true&\\_ERICExtSearch\\_SearchValue\\_0=EJ142630&ERICExtSearch\\_SearchType\\_0=no&accno=EJ142630](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=EJ142630&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=EJ142630) <http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc/chronology/chron70s.html>

An Alabama U.S. District Court rules that people in residential state schools and institutions are to receive treatment that would give them a realistic opportunity to be cured or improve their mental conditions thus making it illegal to lock the handicapped away in custodial institutions without providing treatment or education

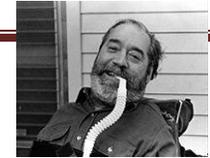
Read more at: <http://www.adap.net/Wyatt/landmark.pdf> <http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2375>  
<http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/component/content/article/345>

The Mental Patients' Liberation Project is initiated in NYC

Related articles found at: <http://mplf.org/text1/chronology70s.html>

[http://www.pendari.com/DMH/Books/Clients\\_Speak\\_For\\_Themselves/files/clients\\_speak\\_for\\_themselves.pdf](http://www.pendari.com/DMH/Books/Clients_Speak_For_Themselves/files/clients_speak_for_themselves.pdf)

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1972

Berkeley Center for Independent Living is founded More at: <http://www.cilberkeley.org/>  
<http://www.independentliving.org/docs3/zukas.html> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW15TQrqBag>

Rehabilitation Act passes Congress but is vetoed by Nixon

In the District of Columbia, a U.S. District Court rules that District of Columbia cannot exclude disabled children from public schools Find more information at: <http://outreach.umf.maine.edu/files/2009/10/millsvboardofed.pdf>  
<http://voices.yahoo.com/cases-laws-affected-education-of-851237.html>  
<http://american-education.org/1297-mills-v-district-of-columbia-board-of-education.html>

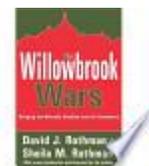
Social Security Amendments created Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program relieving families from the financial responsibility of caring for adult disabled children  
More at: <http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm> <http://www.nysscpa.org/cpajournal/2006/506/infocus/p15.htm>

Houston Cooperative Living Residential Project is established

Judge David Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law is founded in Washington D.C.

Legal Action Center is founded to advocate for the interests of people with alcohol/drug dependencies and those with HIV/AIDS

Paralyzed Veterans of America, National Paraplegia Foundation and Richard Heddingger file suit against the Washington Area Transit Authority to incorporate accessibility into their design for a new subway system in D.C. Related articles at:  
<http://discochiken.wix.com/discochiken/1972>  
<http://www.leagueofhumandignity.com/documents/otlJuneJuly06.pdf>  
Network Against Psychiatric Assault is organized in San Francisco



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Parents of residents at Willow Brook State School in Staten Island file suit to end appalling conditions at that institution  
More at: <https://www.globaldownsyndrome.org/about-down-syndrome/history-of-down-syndrome/down-syndrome-human-and-civil-rights-timeline/>

[http://books.google.com/books?id=6fRvCattle9oC&pg=PA140&lpg=PA140&dq=new+york+arc+v.+rockefeller&source=bl&ots=WKJGqwotgQ&sig=CfgrZr\\_FQDX9Y3oCqvVkUMb9nFw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8epZUPzRG5Pm8QSU8oHgBw&ved=0C CIQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=new%20york%20arc%20v.%20rockefeller&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=6fRvCattle9oC&pg=PA140&lpg=PA140&dq=new+york+arc+v.+rockefeller&source=bl&ots=WKJGqwotgQ&sig=CfgrZr_FQDX9Y3oCqvVkUMb9nFw&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8epZUPzRG5Pm8QSU8oHgBw&ved=0C CIQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=new%20york%20arc%20v.%20rockefeller&f=false)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=E2JupPm\\_WhAC&pg=PA417&lpg=PA417&dq=new+york+arc+v.+rockefeller&source=bl&ots=oEtcTKYR9G&sig=RWsvhEzzDtcxNQ8wTOCvMDQa3u4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8epZUPzRG5Pm8QSU8oHgBw&ved=0CEIQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=new%20york%20arc%20v.%20rockefeller&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=E2JupPm_WhAC&pg=PA417&lpg=PA417&dq=new+york+arc+v.+rockefeller&source=bl&ots=oEtcTKYR9G&sig=RWsvhEzzDtcxNQ8wTOCvMDQa3u4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=8epZUPzRG5Pm8QSU8oHgBw&ved=0CEIQ6AEwBw#v=onepage&q=new%20york%20arc%20v.%20rockefeller&f=false)

Disabled in Action demonstrate in NYC, protesting Nixon's veto of the Rehabilitation Act

The Commonwealth of Virginia ceased its sterilization program

<http://lrc7815.hubpages.com/hub/Eugenics-in-Virginia-Another-Story-of-Forced-Sterilization>

<http://www.forcedsterilization.org/virginia-must-take-full-responsibility-for-forcibly-sterilizing-thousands/>

<http://www.ferris.edu/isar/archives/eliminating-inferior.htm>

<http://lrc7815.hubpages.com/hub/Eugenics-in-Virginia-and-Jesses-Story>

1973

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 passed prohibiting discrimination in federal programs and services or in programs receiving federal funds More at: <http://www.access-board.gov/enforcement/rehab-act-text/intro.htm>

<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf> <http://www.bu.edu/cpr/reasacom/whatlaws-rehaba.html>

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Handicap parking stickers are introduced in Washington D.C. Find out more at:  
[http://www.ehow.com/about\\_6458419\\_history-handicapped-parking.html](http://www.ehow.com/about_6458419_history-handicapped-parking.html)

First conference on Human Rights and Psychiatric Oppression held at University of Detroit  
[www.patrissier.com/Wed.doc](http://www.patrissier.com/Wed.doc)

Federal Funds authorized for curb cuts Related article: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/polio/howpolio/disability2.htm>

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 finally enforced with the establishment of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board  
Find out more at: <https://www.cfda.gov/?s=program&mode=form&tab=step1&id=54f4e90df0d47bc3a13be6edb74cb61e>

1974

Disabled Women's Coalition founded at U C Berkeley  
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt009n9744;NAAN=13030&doc.view=frames&chunk.id=d0e1317&toc.id=d0e1110&brand=oac4>

Atlantis Community in Denver founded by Wade Blank who relocated adults with severe disabilities from nursing homes to apartments Read more at: <http://www.tripil.com/main/newsviews/phil/wblankhistory>

Boston Center for Independent Living established

Halderman v. Pennhurst is filed in Pennsylvania on behalf of residents of Pennhurst State School and Hospital highlighting the horrible conditions at state schools for people with mental retardation  
<http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-cohen/state-sovereignty-and-federal-regulation/pennhurst-state-school-hospital-v-halderman/>  
[http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC\\_CR\\_0451\\_0001\\_ZO.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0451_0001_ZO.html)  
<http://www.elpeecho.com/pennhurst/PDF/CourtDocs/courtDocs.htm>

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North Carolina passes a statewide building code with stringent access requirements drafted by access advocate Ronald Mace. More about Mace at: <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/07/13/us/ronald-l-mace-58-designer-of-buildings-accessible-to-all.html> <http://www.cdrnys.org/wordpress/?p=116>

1975

The Education of All Handicapped Children Act (PL-94-142), later called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is enacted <http://www.scn.org/~bk269/94-142.html> <http://www.nd.edu/~rbarger/www7/pl94-142.html> <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/leg/idea/history.html>

Community Services Act creates the Head Start Program which stipulates that at least 10% of openings be reserved for disabled children [http://sitemaker.umich.edu/356.bell/background\\_history](http://sitemaker.umich.edu/356.bell/background_history)



Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act provides for federal funds to go to programs serving persons with developmental disabilities and outlines a series of rights for those who are institutionalized

American Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities is founded and becomes leading national cross-disability rights organization of the 70s. More at: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/driim/collection/items/accd.html>

Association of Persons with Severe Handicaps is founded by special education professionals calling for the closing of all residential institutions for people with disabilities

In landmark case O'Connor v. Donaldson U.S. Supreme Court rules that people cannot be institutionalized in a mental hospital against their will unless they are a danger to themselves or others

More at: <http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/component/content/article/341> <http://forensicmentalhealthservices.org/?p=239> <http://schizophreniabulletin.oxfordjournals.org/content/1/13/4.full.pdf>

1976

The Federal Communications Commission authorizes reserving Line 21 on televisions for closed captions

## Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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Disabled in Action members in NYC, picket the United Cerebral Palsy telethon calling telethons “demeaning and paternalistic show which celebrate and encourage pity”

Disabled Rights Center is founded in Washington D.C., sponsored by Ralph Nader’s Center for the Study of Responsive Law

1977

Joseph Califano, U.S. Secretary of Health, refuses to sign meaningful regulations for Section 504 which leads to the longest sit-in demonstration at a federal building in American history

<http://www.newmobility.com/articleView.cfm?id=10856&srch=Disability%20Rights>

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/0102/0102ft6.html>

Section 504 regulations are issued

More about 504 at: <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf>

Max Cleland, a severely disabled young veteran is appointed head of the U.S. Veterans Administration

White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals draws 3,000 disabled persons to discuss federal policy toward people with disabilities

1978

American Disabled for Public Transit (ADAPT) is founded in Denver A yearlong civil disobedience campaign which forces the Denver Transit Authority to purchase wheelchair lift equipment for buses ensues

Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1978 establishes the first federal funding for consumer-controlled independent living centers

On Our Own: Patient Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System becomes the standard text of the psychiatric survivor movement Related articles at: <http://www.recoveryxchange.org/JudiChamberlin.html>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judi\\_Chamberlin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judi_Chamberlin)

## Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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[http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/obituaries/articles/2010/01/20/judi\\_chamberlin\\_writings\\_took\\_on\\_mental\\_health\\_care/](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/obituaries/articles/2010/01/20/judi_chamberlin_writings_took_on_mental_health_care/)

National Center for Law and the Deaf is founded in Washington, D.C.

Related information: <http://www.nad.org/issues/about-law-and-advocacy-center>

1979

Vermont Center for Independent Living, the first statewide independent living center in the U.S. is founded

Court rules that programs receiving federal funds must make reasonable modifications to enable participation of otherwise qualified disabled individuals (Southeastern Community College v. Davis)

Find out more at: <http://www.animallaw.info/cases/causfd99sct2361.htm>

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund is founded in Berkeley, California

Additional information at: <http://www.facebook.com/DREDF.org>

[http://sfhomeless.wikia.com/wiki/Disability\\_Rights\\_Education\\_%26\\_Defense\\_Fund\\_\(DREDF\)](http://sfhomeless.wikia.com/wiki/Disability_Rights_Education_%26_Defense_Fund_(DREDF)) <http://dredf.org/>

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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## 1980-1989

1980

Social Security Amendments, Section 1619 passes leading to the termination of benefits for hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities More at: [www.finance.senate.gov/library/reports/committee/download/?id](http://www.finance.senate.gov/library/reports/committee/download/?id).

Disabled Peoples' International founded in Singapore Visit web-site at: <http://www.dpi.org/>

1981

Regan Administration terminates Social Security benefits of hundreds of thousands of disabled recipients

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Reaganomics.aspx>

<http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc/chronology/chron80s.html>



Telecommunications for the Disabled Act mandates telephone access for deaf and hard-of-hearing

1983

National Council on the Handicapped calls for Congress to include persons with disabilities in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other civil and voting rights legislation and regulations

The World Institute on Disability is established by Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann and Joan Leon

More on this organization at: <http://www.wid.org/>

1984

Ted Kennedy, Jr. speaks from the platform of the Democratic National Convention on disability rights

Related articles: <http://www.aapd.com/resources/power-grid-blog/greetings-from-charlotte.html>

“Baby Jane Doe” case involving an infant born in 1983 being denied medical care because of her disability results in the passage of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Amendments of 1984

Related articles:

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/3745839>

<http://www.nytimes.com/1983/10/29/nyregion/excerpts-from-decision-in-baby-jane-doe-case.html>

<http://www.sris.org/prog/samples/cnmc/doctors/Ethic00.pdf>

National Council of the Handicapped becomes an independent federal agency

Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act mandated that polling places be accessible

Additional information at: <http://codi.buffalo.edu/archives/.legislation/.voting.access.txt>

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mopd/html/laws/vaeha.shtml>

<http://resources.lawinfo.com/en/legal-faqs/voting/federal/what-is-the-voting-accessibility-for-the-elderly.html>

1985

The Mental Illness Bill of Rights Act requires states to provide protection and advocacy services for people with psychological disabilities

Final legal hearings on eugenics are held in Virginia. No financial settlements are granted

In case of Burlington School Committee v. Department of Education the Supreme Court rules that schools must pay the expenses of disabled children enrolled in private programs during litigation

In case of City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center the Supreme Court rules that localities cannot use zoning laws to prohibit group homes for people with developmental disabilities from opening in a residential area solely because its residents are disabled

<http://www.casebriefs.com/blog/law/constitutional-law/constitutional-law-keyed-to-chemerinsky/equal-protection/city-of-cleburne-texas-v-cleburne-living-center-inc/>

[http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC\\_CR\\_0473\\_0432\\_ZO.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0473_0432_ZO.html)

[http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1984/1984\\_84\\_468](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1980-1989/1984/1984_84_468)



# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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National Association of Psychiatric Survivors is founded

Related articles found at: <http://www.antipsychiatry.org/>

<http://www.greenstone.org/greenstone3/nzdl.jsessionid=B411DC23BD7E9284973EBFD9366EDB79?a=d&d=HASH018272398d0ac74903433451.11&c=cdl&sib=1&dt=&ec=&et=&p.a=b&p.s=ClassifierBrowse&p.sa=>

1986

Toward Independence a report of the National Council on the Handicapped is published documenting existence of discrimination and citing the need for civil rights legislation

Concrete Change, a grassroots organization advocating accessible housing is organized in Atlanta, GA More about the

organization at: <http://concretechange.org/> <http://eleanors.home.mindspring.com/>

<http://www.npr.org/news/specials/housingfirst/whoneeds/visitability.html>

Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act passes allowing recipients of SSI and SSDI to retain benefits, particularly medical coverage after they obtain work

1987

Justin Dart, Commissioner of the Rehabilitative Services Administration is forced to resign after he testifies to Congress that “an inflexible federal system, like the society it represents, still contains a significant portion of individuals who have not yet overcome obsolete, paternalistic attitudes toward disability...”

Read more at: [http://www.disabilityhistory.org/people\\_dart.html](http://www.disabilityhistory.org/people_dart.html) <http://www.polioplace.org/people/justin-dart-jr>



# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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Alliance for Technology Access founded in California by the Disabled Children's Computer Group and the Apple Computer Office of Special Education Related information at: [http://abilitymagazine.com/smith\\_apple.html](http://abilitymagazine.com/smith_apple.html)  
<http://www.ataccess.org/> <http://techtips.salon.com/computer-access-disability-10315.html>

President Regan vetoes the Civil Rights Restoration Act

1988

Air Carrier Access Act passes prohibiting airlines from refusing to serve people simply because they are disabled and from charging disabled passengers more than non-disabled passengers

Additional information found at:

[http://www.disabilitytravel.com/airlines/air\\_carrier\\_act.htm](http://www.disabilitytravel.com/airlines/air_carrier_act.htm)



# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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Fair Housing Act amendments prohibit housing discrimination against people with disabilities and families with children, also provide for architectural accessibility of select new housing units and renovation of existing units at renter's expense  
Read more at: <http://www.mtstcil.org/skills/housing-2.html>



A Congressional Task Force on the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities is created and begins building grassroots support for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Congress overturns Ronald Regan's veto of the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987  
Read more at: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0310/34778.html>

1989

Center for Universal Design founded by Ronald Mace in Raleigh, NC  
Read more at: <http://www.ncsu.edu/project/design-projects/udi/>  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/disaccess.html>

Mouth: The Voice of Disability Rights begins publication in Rochester, NY  
Publication Website: <http://www.mouthmag.com/>

President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped is renamed President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities  
More information can be found at: <http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/crd/federal/pcepd.htm>  
<http://www.kidstogether.org/communicating.pdf>

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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## 1990-1999

1990

Americans with Disabilities Act is signed by President George H. W. Bush

Video available at: <http://whitehouse.c-span.org/Video/ByPresident/George-H-W-Bush-Signs-ADA.aspx>

More information at: <http://whitehouse.c-span.org/Video/ByPresident/George-H-W-Bush-Signs-ADA.aspx>

<http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/features/2010-ada/> <http://millercenter.org/president/bush/essays/biography/4>

The Committee of Ten Thousand is founded to advocate for people with hemophilia who were infected with HIV/AIDS through tainted blood products More information at: <http://www.cott1.org/>

Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resource Emergency Act is passed to help communities cope with the HIV/AIDS epidemic

The Education for All Handicapped Children Act is amended and renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) See: <http://nichcy.org/laws/idea>

1992

Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act are infused with the philosophy of independent living

1993

The American Indian Disability Legislation Project is established to collect data on Native American disability rights laws and regulations

Additional information at:

[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?\\_nfpb=true&\\_ERICEExtSearch\\_SearchValue\\_0=ED399122&\\_ERICEExtSearch\\_SearchType\\_0=no&accno=ED399122](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICEExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED399122&_ERICEExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED399122)

<http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/Indian/Factsheets/AmlLegSrv.htm>

A legal case of four men convicted of sexual assault and conspiracy for raping a 17 year old mentally disabled girl highlights the widespread sexual abuse of people with developmental disabilities

## Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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For the first time, a developmentally disabled person, Robert Williams, is named Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities

Related articles found at:

<http://www.annenberg.northwestern.edu/pubs/comtech/comtech4.htm>

<http://archive.hhs.gov/news/press/1993pres/930726.txt>

Holland v. Sacramento City United School District affirms the right of disabled children to attend public school classes with non-disabled children More related to this topic at: [http://www.kidstogether.org/right-ed\\_files/rachel.htm](http://www.kidstogether.org/right-ed_files/rachel.htm)

[http://www.weac.org/Issues\\_Advocacy/Resource\\_Pages\\_On\\_Issues\\_one/Special\\_Education/special\\_education\\_inclusion.aspx](http://www.weac.org/Issues_Advocacy/Resource_Pages_On_Issues_one/Special_Education/special_education_inclusion.aspx)

[http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?\\_nfpb=true&\\_ERICExtSearch\\_SearchValue\\_0=ED383135&ERICExtSearch\\_SearchType\\_0=no&accno=ED383135](http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/search/detailmini.jsp?_nfpb=true&_ERICExtSearch_SearchValue_0=ED383135&ERICExtSearch_SearchType_0=no&accno=ED383135)

1995

The First International Symposium on Issues of Women with Disabilities is held in Beijing, China

Justice for All is organized by Justin Dart and others in Washington, D.C.

When Billy Broke His Head...and Other Tale of Wonder, a film about the disability rights movement, premieres on PBS

More information: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfjFCYR2HEs> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHq\\_FG3uy5g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHq_FG3uy5g)

The American Association of People with Disabilities is founded in Washington, D.C. Website: <http://www.aapd.com/>

U.S. Court of Appeals Helen L. v. Snider rules that continued institutionalization of a disabled PA woman, when not medically necessary, and when there is an option of home care, was a violation of her rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. More information at: <http://www.freedomclearinghouse.com/know/lawcases.htm>  
<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-3rd-circuit/1353953.html>

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Sandra Jensen is denied a heart-lung transplant by the Stanford University School of Medicine because she has Down's syndrome

1996

Due to pressure from disability rights groups, the Stanford University School of Medicine reverses their decision and Sandra Jensen becomes the first person with Down's syndrome to receive a heart-lung transplant

Read more at: <http://www.stanford.edu/~mvr2j/sfsu09/extra/SandraJensen.pdf>

1998

In case of Pennsylvania Department of Corrections v. Yeskey, the Supreme Court decides that the Americans with Disabilities Act includes state prisons

The Works Incentives Improvement Act (Ticket to Work) becomes law, allowing those who require health care benefits to work

# Timeline of Events, Legislation, and Literature that have Affected the Lives of Persons with Disabilities

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## 2000-Present

2001

The Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates approves a resolution expressing regret for its eugenics practices between 1924 and 1979.

Read more at:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2002/05/02/virginia-eugenics.htm>

<http://www.raggededgemagazine.com/1103/1103ft1.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/1965811.stm>

2010

According to FBI 1.5% of hate crimes due to bias against disabled

Read article at: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/discrimination/hate-crime-stats.php>

Anniversary of Human Rights Day Celebrated More at: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/discrimination/human-rights.php>

2011

Delta fined for violating rules protecting air travelers with

Find out more at: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/discrimination/delta-airlines.php>



disabilities

Starbucks sued for discrimination

Read article at: <http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/discrimination/starbucks.php>



2012

National Disability Discrimination Tour

<http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/discrimination/la-tour.php>

<http://www.natlawreview.com/article/eec-commissioners-to-explain-disability-discrimination-law-coast-to-coast-tour>

*Disclaimer: This timeline does not include every event that affected disabled persons, but an attempt was made to capture the majority of major events.*