

Vermont Judiciary
Digital Accessibility Compliance Plan
ADA Title II and WCAG 2.1 Level AA

Overview

On April 24, 2024, the Federal Register published the Department of Justice’s final rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities. The rule mandates that state and local governments (Title II entities) make their websites and mobile applications accessible by adhering to WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards. As a branch of state government, compliance is required by the Vermont Judiciary. This Digital Accessibility Compliance Plan (Plan) provides the Judiciary’s inventory and plan for compliance with the new rule.

Application

The new rule applies to the Judiciary’s website (including court forms, other documents posted online, and calendars), vendor-hosted systems like the Enterprise Justice e-filing system and online payment system, and Supreme Court livestreams, among other things. The rule contains limited exceptions including, among others, independent third-party content and archived materials. More information about the rule and its application is available through the following helpful links:

Rule Fact Sheet: [Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments | ADA.gov](#)

Technical Standard Overview: [WCAG 2 Overview | Web Accessibility Initiative \(WAI\) | W3C](#)

Vermont’s Executive Branch information and checklists: [Universal Digital Accessibility Project](#)

National Center for State Courts: [What courts need to know about the DOJ digital accessibility rule & compliance deadline | National Center for State Courts](#)

Website Accessibility Working Group

In fall 2025, in response to these updated federal requirements governing digital accessibility, the Judiciary formed a Website Accessibility Working Group. The purpose of the Working Group is to establish a framework to address the Judiciary’s compliance with

federal accessibility requirements under this rule to ensure that all online court services are accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Working Group built on the Judiciary's previous careful review of its ADA and reasonable accommodations policies and processes. The Working Group includes the following members:

Court Administrator's Office: Teri Corsones, Leda Moloff

Technology Services Center: Marcia Schels, Joe Paquin, Marie Schonholtz, Kathy Rotondi

Trial Court Operations: Laurie Canty, Kristie Landon

Planning and Court Services: Scott Griffith, Andy Campbell

Supreme Court Representative: Emily Wetherell

Annual Reports: Linda Richard, Bonnie Finn

Human Resources/Training: John McGlynn

Inventory and Compliance Plan

Set forth below is an inventory of the areas that will be addressed through the Plan, and the plan for compliance. Although all elements of accessibility are important, given the resources available within the Judiciary, the following prioritization categories were developed and include:

High Priority: address as soon as possible, lack of accessibility may make it difficult for people with disabilities to access court services

Medium Priority: address promptly; use for items that do not completely block access but may make it more difficult

Low Priority: use for best practice improvements, improvements for clarity, user experience, or to avoid redundancy

Inventory: Vermont Judiciary Systems Impacted by DOJ Website Accessibility Rule

ACTION PLAN – REMEDIATION

ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE
<p>1. Court Forms Posted Online. High Priority. Remediate court forms using vendor (Crawford Tech)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Retain vendor b. Determine most used forms to prioritize remediation queue c. Manage remediation process of court forms through vendor d. Testing (internal/external testing with impacted community) e. Process flow, posting remediated documents 	<p>Vendor Identified – 3/2026</p> <p>Retain Vendor – 4/2026</p> <p>Create Remediation Queue – 4/2026</p> <p>Manage Remediation Process and Testing – starting in 4/2026 and determining anticipated completion date</p>
<p>2. Vendor Compliance. High Priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tyler <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. eFile & Serve ii. re:Search iii. Defendant Access (payment system) iv. Judiciary-prepared documents saved to Enterprise Justice b. Omnigo (digital evidence portal) c. LexisNexis (court rules online) 	<p>Sept. 2025 – Tyler expects to be substantially compliant with items (a)(i-iii)</p> <p>April 2026 – waiting for Tyler feedback on (a)(iv)</p> <p>Dec. 2025 – Omnigo expects to be substantially compliant by 4/24/26</p> <p>March 2026 – waiting for LexisNexis confirmation</p>
<p>3. Website Itself. High Priority. Judiciary taking over hosting from Portland Webworks and will address compliance items with that transition, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Providing text alternatives (alt text) for images b. Ensuring keyboard-only navigation c. Maintaining high color contrast d. Screen reader capability e. Audits – incorporate regular audits of website for accessibility issues 	<p>March-April 2026 – hosting transition from PWW expected</p>

<p>4. Public information pages and calendars posted on website</p>	<p>Review and consider any necessary remediation in connection with these items through (a) compliance with other documents, see number 2; or (b) with internal domain transfer, see number 4</p>
<p>5. Education/Training needs. High Priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Judiciary will continue to evaluate what training is needed for impacted employees of the Judiciary b. IT staff: implementation of requirements/technical standard c. Content creators: training concerning accessible court forms, documents, and posting online d. Clerks: creation of accessible filings and communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Judges/staff: awareness (especially for orders and remote hearings) b. In discussion with NCSC to develop ongoing training for the Judiciary 	<p>April 2026 – developing training with NCSC to meet Judiciary staff needs</p>
<p>6. Accessibility Statement on Website. High Priority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publish updated Accessibility Statement to website b. Add information/updates for members of the public who are having trouble accessing documents on the website, including a process for intake and response to these inquiries c. Add information for members of the public to provide feedback to the Judiciary 	<p>April 2026 – draft Accessibility Statement under review (see Appendix A)</p> <p>April 2026 – will request updated information for members of the public to request accessibility requirements</p>
<p>7. Livestreams/Remote hearings. Medium Priority.</p>	<p>March 2026 – pilot testing of closed captioning through Zoom</p>
<p>8. Legacy Content on Website. Remediate or Archive other documents on website. Medium Priority. Examples of other documents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Posted Supreme Court opinions ii. Administrative Directives 	<p>Internal Domain Owner Meetings – 4/2026-5/2026</p> <p>Archive Documents – starting in 4/2026 (SC</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Audio recordings iv. Documents posted in the “Vermont Court Records” section v. Annual Statistical Reports 	<p>Opinions, Statistical Reports)</p> <p>Remediate Documents – ongoing project, depending on priority level</p>
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FUTURE STATE – NEW CONTENT

ACTION STEPS	TIMELINE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training and education needed to make content accessible by default. High Priority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Developing training with National Center for State Courts 	<p>April 2026 – developing training with NCSC to meet Judiciary staff needs</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Continuous Monitoring. The Judiciary plans to implement continuous monitoring of compliance via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated scanning of public-facing assets • Installation of manually scanning technologies for non-public-facing assets • Yearly scans of public-facing assets by an independent third party 	<p>Continuous monitoring will be rolled out with transition to self-hosting website in April 2026</p>

Appendix A

Draft Website Accessibility Statement

Note: The Judiciary currently has a link on the website to “ADA Information” in the footer; consider adding a link called “Website Accessibility Statement.”

DRAFT Website Accessibility Statement

The Vermont Judiciary is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology background or ability. We are actively working to increase the accessibility and usability of our website and in doing so adhere to many of the applicable standards and guidelines. Thank you for your patience and for your suggestions as we continue to move forward in this direction with features such as

- Images on the website include alternative tags. Alternative tags are descriptions of images that screen readers can read aloud to the user.
- The foreground and background of each page contrast so that users with visual disabilities can read content more easily.
- All web pages and documents have unique titles that describe the function or purpose of the page or document. Form field labels are also unique.
- The website incorporates headings to help all users, including those with visual impairments, to skim content.
- The website features a responsive web design, which benefits users with low vision because it allows the user's custom screen settings to control how the website displays content.

The Vermont Judiciary does not discriminate on the basis of religion, age, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or parental status, or disability. You can find more information about the Vermont Judiciary’s reasonable accommodations policy for persons with disabilities here: [Vermont Judiciary - Accommodation Information](#).

In order to further our commitment to nondiscrimination, we are working to ensure our site conforms to [level Double-A World Wide Web Consortium \(W3C\) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1](#). Such guidelines detail best practices for ensuring that assistive technology users can access the site. The guidelines also make the site more user friendly for all people.

If the format of any material on this website prevents you from accessing the information, please contact us for assistance. To respond in a manner most helpful to you, please note the nature of your accessibility concern, the format in which you prefer to receive material, the webpage address of the requested material, and the best way to contact you.

Should you find information or functionality that is inaccessible, please contact:

Vermont Judiciary Helpdesk
Technology Services Center
Email: itsupport@vtcourts.gov
Phone: 802-828-4357

We will make every reasonable effort to accommodate.

The Court does not provide devices that are personal or individually prescribed, such as wheelchairs, prescription eyeglasses, and hearing aids, or services of a personal nature, such as the pushing of wheelchairs. Court personnel are not permitted to provide legal advice as an ADA accommodation. The ADA also does not require the Vermont Judiciary to attempt to change existing Vermont law or change a prior ruling of a Vermont court.

We welcome any questions about this website's accessibility, as well as your suggestions for improving it.