

ACCESSIBILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A PATH TO COMPLIANCE



AM I AN ACCESSIBLE BUSINESS??

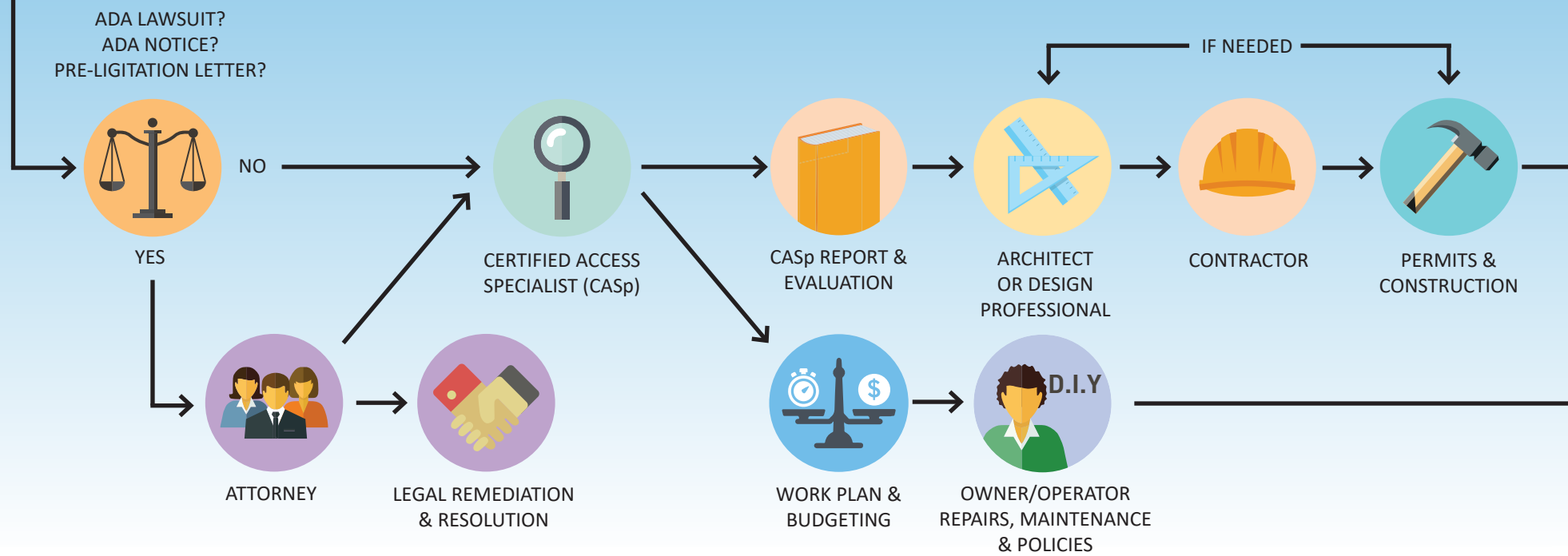
All businesses must comply with federal and state accessibility laws, regardless of the age of the building. Is your business compliant? Does your lease agreement include an ADA access clause? Are you just simply unsure about making and/or maintaining an accessible business?

There are resources available to help understand and comply with accessibility laws. WWW.ADA.GOV website is one tool.

Below is a BIG PICTURE path to compliance with many resources along the way to help make your business accessible to the public.



I AM AN ACCESSIBLE BUSINESS!!



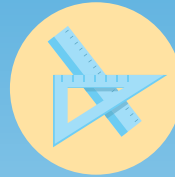
ACCESSIBILITY FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A PATH TO COMPLIANCE - ICON DEFINITION



ADA LAWSUIT?
ADA NOTICE?

For many business and property owners, their first interaction with accessibility is through an ADA lawsuit, a pre-litigation notice, or “demand letter.” Many are left wondering what the next steps are or the best course of action. Certified Access Specialists (CASp) and attorneys are resources available to assist in identifying accessibility shortfalls and your legal options. Also, if you are leasing your property check with your landlord to understand what is in your lease agreement.



ARCHITECT
OR DESIGN
PROFESSIONAL

Access repairs or remodels may not be as easy as you think. Design solutions may require the professional services of an Architect or design professional. Contact the American Institute of Architects today!



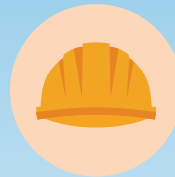
CASp REPORT &
EVALUATION

The main role of a CASp is to evaluate the existing conditions at the business or property and report the findings. Think of it like an audit for access compliance. This evaluation will help the business or property owner understand where the access issues are.



ATTORNEY

There are attorneys that specialize in accessibility lawsuits and can offer legal counseling. There may also be legal benefits to obtaining a CASp inspection which an attorney can advise on. Contact the California Lawyers Association and/or State Bar of California for an attorney in your area that can assist!



CONTRACTOR

Contractors play a major role in ensuring the design solution is constructed per plans. Find an experienced contractor that knows how to work with a design professional and CASp to ensure compliance during construction.



WORK PLAN &
BUDGETING

Based on the CASp report findings, a budget and work plan can be developed to clarify the next steps toward compliance. Barriers to access can be identified along with a schedule for completion.



CERTIFIED ACCESS
SPECIALIST (CASp)

A Certified Access Specialist (CASp) has unique knowledge of accessibility requirements and can offer inspections of your business or property. Depending on pending legal action, a CASp inspection may offer legal benefits as well as shed light on accessibility issues. The Division of the State Architect maintains a list of CASps across the state.



PERMITS &
CONSTRUCTION

Many cities like Fresno and San Francisco have special programs and ordinances for access compliance. Talk with your Contractor, Attorney, Architect, or CASp for local requirements.



OWNER/OPERATOR
REPAIRS/
MAINTENANCE/
POLICIES

As the Owner or Operator, there are many minor repairs include moving temporary obstacles, new signs, and other non-construction related items that you could do yourself. Creating and maintaining training and policies for your employees is another example of “do it yourself” opportunities. Employer directed policies/training, maintenance, and or minor repairs can make a huge difference for customers with disabilities.