



Accommodations for Elder Victims Seeking Justice

One Florida Court survey indicated that the most common disability that the court must accommodate is hearing impairment. The Circuit Court now provides several different accommodations: Sound amplification headsets ▪ sign language interpreters ▪ lip reading interpreters ▪ and real time court reporting.

- ☞ Courts must provide access not only in the courtroom, but also at the clerk's counter, in mediation, in jury assembly, when assisting pro se litigants, in every service...
- ☞ ADA provides flexibility to the courts to choose a reasonable method of accommodation.
- ☞ Consider long term costs and the practicality of the solution.
- ☞ Expect the unexpected! Over time you will see a wide variety of disabilities which require different accommodations.

Court to-Do List

- Take time to plan.
- Invite court administration, the local bar, the state prosecutor, public defenders, clerk's office, and the sheriff's office to the table.
- Plan a strategy for compliance.
- Educate court employees.
- Create a survey to identify areas of need.
- Choose solutions that make long- term sense, and are within your budget.
- Prioritize actions.
- Expect the unexpected.

Source: National Center for State Courts

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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Eleazer Courtroom



▶ Home ▶ Concept Art ▶ Courtroom Features ▶ Construction Photos ▶ About William Eleazer

Courtroom Features

This is the only courtroom in the country designed specifically with the needs of elderly parties in mind. Everyone deserves to have as much physical access to the courts as possible. This courtroom will serve as a model for courts building or remodeling their courtrooms. With this courtroom, we show how to design a courtroom in such a way as to provide maximum access to elders and people with disabilities. We are very excited about the opportunities presented by such courtroom.

-Rebecca Morgan Director of Stetson's Center for Excellence in Elder Law Boston Asset Management
Faculty Chair in Elder Law

- Double jury box and one-way glass for jury monitoring and research
- Colors picked to enhance vision of elders
- Flat panel touch screen outside of the courtroom with layout of courtroom. Touching various parts of the courtroom will bring up information about individual court personnel and his or her role in court proceedings
- Carpeting designed to give visual clues for those with visual impairments—a border along the edge in a color different from the carpet—with diamond insets marking each row to give a visual clue regarding seats
- Rounded corners on all tables and desks
- Sturdy chairs with locking wheels and firm arms
- Witness box on the floor
- Ramp to judge's bench inside judge's chambers, so judge in wheelchair can ascend bench without being observed
- Podium that is electronically height-adjustable, with electronic side shelves or wings for those in a wheelchair
- Use of technology to enhance accessibility of participants—including flat panels in gallery, hearing amplification devices, software to convert conversations into typed words
- Non-glare, non-buzz lighting



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