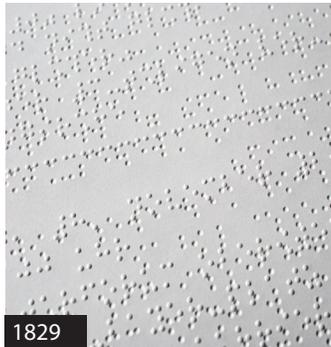


Timeline



1776



1829



1962



1968

Pre-1700s Disabilities considered loss of reason. People with disabilities considered “poor” and dependent on charity.

1776 “My hands may tremble, my heart does not,” Stephen Hopkins said. He lived with cerebral palsy and penned this statement after signing the Declaration of Independence.

1782 First institution for blind children opens in Paris, France. It is called the Institute for Blind Youth. Valentin Hauy, who is known as the father and apostle of the blind, founded it. Louis Braille, inventor of the most widely used alphabet for the blind, later becomes a student and teacher of the institution.

1809 Louis Braille is born. He loses his vision after an accident at the age of 3.

1829 Louis Braille publishes his writing system, which includes clusters of raised dots for blind people to touch and interpret.

1860 Braille is taught for the first time in the U.S.

1872 While trying to develop ways to make speech visible for the deaf, Alexander Graham Bell develops the telephone.

1881 At 24, Sigmund Freud starts his career as a doctor and within two years would form the theories of psychoanalysis.

1907 The era of eugenic sterilization begins in the U.S. as Indiana legalizes the controversial practice of institutionalization for “confirmed idiots, imbeciles and rapists.”

1919 The Ohio Society for Crippled Children is founded. Today, the nonprofit helps people with disabilities and is known as Easterseals. It is still a model for non-profits as it celebrates its 100-year anniversary.

1920 Congress passes a bill funding vocational rehabilitation for veterans of WWI and disabled in the general community.

1927 In a ruling that still stands, the Supreme Court deemed sterilization for people with mental disabilities constitutional.

1932 The only president to serve more than two terms, Franklin D. Roosevelt, is elected. FDR is confined to a wheelchair because of complications with polio. He founds the March of Dimes, which focuses on infantile paralysis.

1935 League of the Physically Handicapped organizes a sit-in for nine days in New York City that eventually helps to secure thousands of jobs for people with disabilities.

1941 Eunice Kennedy Shriver founds the Special Olympics in honor of her sister Rosemary, who was the victim of a failed lobotomy to “cure” mild retardation and aggressive behavior, resulting in incapacitation.

1950 The Veterans Administration, President’s Committee on Employment of the Handicapped and Ohio Society for Crippled Children develops national standards for “barrier-free” buildings.

1961 The first accessibility standard is published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Forty-nine states adopt accessibility standards by 1973.

1962 Ed Roberts, after first being denied, fights for admission to the University of California, Berkeley. He becomes the first person in a wheelchair to attend the university, a trailblazer for the independent movement, and helps to found the first Center for Independent Living (CIL).

1968 First Special Olympics is held in Chicago.



**EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY**

1988



1990



2004



2008

1968 Architectural Barriers Act mandates removal of obstacles from physical design of buildings to make it accessible for people with physical disabilities.

1973 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 makes it illegal for universities, federal agencies and institutions receiving federal funds to discriminate on the basis of disability.

1975 Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) guarantees a public education for children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment.

1978 Protesters by 19 members of the Atlantic Community in Denver block buses with their wheelchairs chanting "We will ride!" to demonstrate against inaccessibility of public transportation. The National Council on Disability is established as an advisory board to the Department of Education.

1982 Alan Reich founds the National Organization on Disability (NOD).

1986 The Air Carrier Access Act is passed. It prohibits discrimination by airlines and opens up new avenues of travel for people with disabilities.

1988 The Fair Housing Amendments Act requires a certain number of accessible units to be built in all multi-family housing. The Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act is passed increasing accessibility to assistive technology.

1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) becomes law, viewed as the most important civil rights law since Title 504.

1995 The American Association of People with Disabilities is created to give people with disabilities a stronger voice on a national level. Christopher Reeve, the actor that portrayed "Superman" is paralyzed in a horseback riding accident. His wife Dana Reeve later starts the Reeve Foundation, which becomes a well-known advocacy

group for spinal cord injuries and stem-cell research.

1996 The Telecommunications Act is passed, mandating closed captioning and other adaptive equipment for accessibility.

1998 A federal court rules that Case Martin, a professional golfer with a circulatory disorder that prevents him from walking the entire course, is allowed to utilize the ADA and use a golf cart.

1999 The Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) expands Medicare and Medicaid so that people with disabilities who are working do not lose medical coverage.

2004 The first Disability Pride Parade is held in Chicago.

2006 The first bill is passed requiring the Disability Rights Movement be taught in K-12 schools.

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network, or ASAN, was founded. It is an organization run by and for individuals on the autism spectrum. ASAN's mission statement says that people with autism are equal to everyone else, and important and necessary members of society.

2008 The Invisible Disabilities Association begins honoring organizations, businesses and individuals who make a positive difference for people with disabilities. Some invisible disabilities include mental illness, epilepsy, chronic fatigue syndrome, ADD/ADHD, lupus, endometriosis, Lyme disease and diabetes.

2010 Rosa's Law, which changes references in many federal statutes from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability," becomes law in the U.S.

2016 The Invisible Disability Project is founded to empower people with invisible disabilities.