

# How to Use the Accessibility Field on RMLSweb



Are your doors wide enough for a wheelchair? View a tour of an accessible house in Virginia. (Photo courtesy of Fairfax County, VA via Flickr)

Would you know how to look for a home for a client who uses a wheelchair? Do you know how to *identify* accessible features when listing a home to market them to a wider audience on RMLSweb?

July 26th is the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a piece of legislation crafted to eliminate discrimination against people with physical or mental conditions that may require accommodations. Last week, an educational forum organized by the Portland Metro Association of REALTORS® (PMAR) explored the intersection of real estate and accessibility—from looking at how a brokerage can improve accessibility in the office to the perspective of a local REALTOR® who uses a wheelchair.

Today we aim to educate RMLS™ subscribers on how they may use RMLSweb more effectively in both the listing and buying processes.

## **The Accessibility Field on RMLSweb**

Accessibility has been addressed on RMLSweb for years, with the Accessibility field being regularly reviewed and developed by the RMLS™ Forms Committee. Over the years this field has been expanded to include wide parking spaces, stair assistance, roll-in showers, and more.

## **The Devil's in the Details**

How wide must a doorway be to be marked as WD-D00R? Specificity helps REALTORS® do their job, so prospective clients don't arrive at a property to find the listing inadequate for their needs—perhaps sporting a dangerously steep ramp or a 'wide' hallway where a wheelchair can't turn.

Document #1211 on RMLSweb, Accessibility Term Definitions, defines minimum standards for each accessibility feature. REALTORS® listing a property should verify the specified measurements on each feature before marking the appropriate field in RMLSweb.

(We also include the accessibility terms on Document #1210, Listing Abbreviations, but this document only unravels abbreviations without specific details about each feature.)

### **In the Thick of Listing or Searching for a Property?**

If you're listing a property using Listing Load, click on the linked text that says "Accessibility" for a pop-up window with full definitions.



Searching for properties for a client? In Advanced Search, select the Accessibility field and then click the Help link for full definitions.



### **Incorrect Data? Let Us Know!**

What if, as a buyer agent, you show a listing that don't quite meet the standards outlined on the definitions document? Report the listing to RMLS™ using the Report Issue button! Our staff will contact the listing agent to get things ironed out.

*Have any suggestions for improving how RMLSweb communicates a*

*listing's accessibility? Submit a suggestion to the RMLS™  
Forms Committee by contacting Christina Smestad.*