



**GEORGIA STATE FINANCING AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION**

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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: State Fire Marshal

From: GSFIC/State ADA Coordinator's Office

Subject: Technical Assistance for Georgia Accessibility Code/2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

Date: June 2014 Revised

Places of Worship (120-3-20-.03 (3)/2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design)

Question: Are places of worship exempt from the requirements of O.C.G.A. 30-3-1 *et seq.* and its implementing regulation, the Georgia Accessibility Code?

Answer: No. Places of worship are covered as *A public buildings@* as that term is defined under O.C.G.A. ' 30-3-2 and are required to be designed and constructed in compliance with the Georgia Accessibility Code. See Attorney General's Official Opinion 95-20 (April 24, 1995):

<http://www.state.ga.us/ago/read.cgi?searchval=place%20of%20worship&openval=95-20>

Note: O.C.G.A. ' 30-3-3 states that [the Safety Fire Commissioner, or where applicable, the Board of Regents or local governing authority having jurisdiction over the building in question] "*after taking all circumstances into consideration*", may determine that full compliance with any particular standard or specification set forth in this chapter is *impractical*, whereupon there shall be substantial compliance with the standards or specifications to the maximum extent practical ...

TEB
State ADA Coordinator's Office