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*The National Society of Dental Practitioners and the Dentist's Advantage Insurance Program for Dentists*

## **RISK MANAGEMENT ALERT**

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### **POTENTIAL WEBSITE PROBLEM**

Several Texas dentists were recently the recipients of complaint letters alleging that their websites violated the Americans with Disabilities Act (AwDA). The allegations state that their websites do not comply with the act's provisions because they are not accessible to those with vision and hearing impairment. These complaints often are accompanied with demands for high payments and corrective measures to avoid further legal action. There are increases in these types of complaints which could result in major financial and other penalties.

It is strongly advised that all dentists with websites immediately review their websites for possible violations after reviewing the act's provisions. If you are not sure of any part of the act seek out a consultant with expertise in this area of concern. There are also many links on the internet. ADA and AGD members can inquire from their organizations for assistance with website reviews.

Since this is a growing area of concern it is strongly advised to take immediate action. Being proactive is always better than being reactive!