



Township of East Garafraxa

Department / Division: Township of East Garafraxa

Date of Issue: Dec. 13, 2016

Subject: Terminology

Background

Whether speaking with or about people with disabilities there is often an uncomfortable feeling that comes from our natural desire to not be offensive. Over time many terms, titles and phrases that were commonly used have fallen out of favour and this will certainly continue to be the case as more and more discussions about accommodating persons with disabilities take place.

Purpose

This document outlines some of the more commonly used terms, titles and phrases in society today while making suggestions for putting the person first.

Business Practice

Don't use	Do use
Aged (the), the elderly	Seniors
Handicap, handicapped, invalid or impediment	Disability
The disabled, invalid, patient	Person(s) with a disability or "Person(s) with..." or "People with a..."
Birth defect, congenital defect, deformity	A person who has a congenital disability A person with a disability since birth
Mental retardation, mentally retarded, retarded, mentally challenged, idiot, imbecile, moron, simple, mongoloid, feeble minded	Intellectual disability or developmental disability A person with an intellectual disability. A person with a developmental disability
Learning disabled, learning disordered, dyslexic	A person with a learning disability or people with learning disabilities
Suffering, afflicted, victim, stricken	"Person living with..." or "Person born with..."
Visually impaired, the blind	Be specific: A person with vision loss A person who is blind A person with low vision
Deaf (avoid generalizing; try to find preferred term from "do" list) A person who is Deaf (for example, a person with profound hearing loss) A person who is deafened (for example, a person who has become deaf later in life) When referring to the deaf community and their culture (whose preferred mode of communication is sign language), it is acceptable to use "the Deaf"	Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, hearing loss: be specific

This policy is available in an alternative format upon request.



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Deaf, mute, dumb or deaf-blind	Person who does not speak Person who is deaf-blind (for example, a person who has any combination of vision and hearing loss)
Confined to a wheelchair, wheelchair bound, stuck in a wheelchair	Person in a wheelchair; a person who uses a wheelchair
Crippled, cripple, lame, physically challenged	Person with a mobility or physical disability Challenges are environmental conditions; a person with a disability A person with a physical disability A person with a spinal cord injury A person who uses a walker A person who uses a mobility aid A person with arthritis
Crazy, insane, lunatic, psycho, mental, mental patient, maniac, neurotic, psychotic, unsound mind, schizophrenic, (the negative list is too long)	Mental health disability or, A person with a mental illness A person with a mental disorder A person with a mood disorder (for example, a person with depression, a person with bipolar disorder) A person with a personality disorder (for example, a person with antisocial personality disorder) A person with an anxiety disorder (for example, a person with obsessive compulsive disorder) A person with an eating disorder (for example, a person with anorexia nervosa, a person with bulimia) A person with schizophrenia
Handicapped parking, bathrooms	Accessible parking, bathrooms
An epileptic	A person with epilepsy; a person who has epilepsy
Victim of (a condition such as multiple sclerosis, a stroke, cerebral palsy)	A person who has (a particular condition) or a person who has had a stroke
Suffers from, afflicted by, stricken with, etc.	A person with a disability, a person who has (a particular condition)
Brain damaged	A person with a brain injury A person with an acquired brain injury
Fits, spells, attacks	Seizures
Hidden disability, invisible disability	Non-visible disability

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Midget, Dwarf	A little person A person of short stature A person who has a form of dwarfism
Mongoloid, Mongolism, Downs	A person with Down Syndrome A person with an intellectual or developmental disability
Normal	A person without a disability A person who is not disabled Specifically, a person who is sighted, a hearing person, a person who is ambulatory
Spastic	A person who has muscle spasms
Stutterer	A person who stutters. A person with a communication disorder