

Disability Etiquette Tips



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Disability Etiquette Tips



- Use common sense and extend common courtesies to everyone.
- Don't patronize (treat adults like adults).
- Be patient (people with disabilities and seniors might require more time to express themselves or to move about).
- Relax and be yourself (don't worry about using common phrases like "see you later").
- Speak directly to the person and maintain eye contact (don't speak through a companion, aide or interpreter).
- Use "person first" terminology, recognizing they are a person before recognizing the disability (i.e., don't say "blind guy" but rather "man with a visual impairment")
- Help make your community accessible (become familiar with "accessible" building standards); reserve accessible parking for those who require it.
- Offer assistance and listen for response — follow any specific directions.
- Do not pet, feed or distract service animals. They are working animals, not pets.

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