

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO USE WHEN REFERRING TO A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY

PASTORAL CARE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Avoid the use of

Prefer use of

Handicapped ramp, bathroom.....	<i>Accessible</i> entrance, bathroom
Crippled, handicapped, physically challenged, differently abled.....	Person with a disability
Normal person.....	Sighted, hearing, ambulatory, non-disabled Person
<i>The blind, the deaf, the disabled</i>	Do <i>not</i> “clump” people into a category Avoid using such phrases altogether
Deaf and Dumb.....	Deaf, hard-of-hearing, difficulty with speech
Victim of, suffers from, afflicted with.....	Person <i>has</i> multiple sclerosis, spinal cord Injury, cerebral palsy, etc.
Wheelchair-bound, confined to.....	<i>Uses</i> a wheelchair
Epileptic, diabetic, spastic.....	Person <i>has</i> epilepsy, diabetes, Neurological disorder
Retarded.....	Developmental disability
Courageous, inspiring.....	Do <i>not</i> use when referring to a <i>person</i>
Special person, Special needs.....	Use only if part of a title (<i>Special Assistant To the Director</i>). A person with a disability May need an <i>accommodation, adaptive Device or assistive technology</i>
Patient.....	Person, consumer, customer, etc. <i>Patient</i> can only be used in a medical Situation

Source of information: **Liberty Resources:** 215-634-2000 (voice)* 215634-6630 (TDD) *215-634-6628 (fax)

Helpful Resources: www.ncdj.org/style-guide & www.rtcil.org/products/media