

DISABILITY TERMINOLOGY CHART

When referring to people with disabilities, choose words that reflect dignity and respect. Use language that describes the person's disability without defining the individual as his or her disability. The following are just some examples.

INAPPROPRIATE	APPROPRIATE
The disabled, the handicapped	Person with a disability, the disability community
Crippled, suffers from, afflicted with, stricken with, victim of, invalid	Person with a disability
The blind, the deaf	Person who is blind, person who is deaf or hard of hearing
Wheelchair bound, confined or restricted to a wheelchair	Person who uses a wheelchair, a wheelchair user
Handicap parking	Accessible parking, parking for a person with a disability
Dumb, mute	Person who cannot speak, has difficulty speaking, uses synthetic speech, is non-vocal or is non-verbal
Stutterer, tongue-tied	Person with a speech disability or communication disability
CP victim, spastic	Person with cerebral palsy
Crippled, lame, deformed	Person with a disability, person who walks with a cane or uses leg braces
Epileptic	Person with epilepsy, person who had a seizure
Fit, attack	Person who had a seizure, epileptic event or seizure event
Crazy, maniac, lunatic, insane, nuts, deranged, psycho, demented	Person with an emotional disability, mental health disability or psychiatric disability
Retard, mentally defective, moron, idiot, slow, imbecile, feeble-minded, Down's person, mongoloid	Person with an intellectual disability
Slow learner, retarded	Person who has a learning disability, person with an intellectual disability
Dwarf, midget	Person of short stature, little person
Paraplegic, quadriplegic	Person with a spinal cord injury, person with paraplegia or who is paralyzed
Birth defect	Person with a congenital disability
A post-polio, suffered from polio	Person who has had polio or experienced polio
Homebound	Person who is not able to leave home
Senile, demented	Person with Alzheimer's disease, person who has dementia