



Physical Disabilities

1. Do not push a person's wheelchair, or grab the arm of someone walking with difficulty, without asking if you can be of assistance.
2. Personal space includes a person's wheelchair, crutches, or other mobility aid. Never move someone's crutches, walker, cane, or other mobility aid without permission.
3. When speaking with someone using a wheelchair for more than a few minutes, try to find a seat for yourself.



Hearing Disabilities

1. Listen and pay attention to a person who has difficulty speaking.
2. Speak calmly, slowly, and directly to a person who is hard of hearing. Your facial expressions, gestures, and body movements will help in understanding. Don't shout or speak in the person's ear. Someone who needs you to speak louder, will ask. If full understanding is doubtful, try writing a note.
3. Pre-printed signs or a notepad should be available to assist communication with deaf or hard-of-hearing voters.



Assisting Senior Citizens & Voters with Disabilities

1. State and federal law permits voters with disabilities to be accompanied and to receive assistance by another person in the voting booth.
2. Remember that all voters deserve courteous attention in exercising their right as citizens to vote.
3. Be considerate of the extra time it might take for a person with a disability or an elderly person to get things done.
4. Always ask if the person would like assistance, accept the idea that they may decline.
5. Speak directly to the person who has a disability rather than just to a companion who may be accompanying him or her.
6. A good habit is to act kindly and considerately towards everyone; do not make assumptions about what a person can or cannot do. You can't know someone's situation by just looking at them.
7. Provide a guiding device such as a ruler or a signature guide for signing forms.
8. Animals that assist people with disabilities must be admitted into the building. Never pet or otherwise distract a guide dog unless the owner has given permission.
9. Offer voters with canes or walkers a chair.



Cognitive Disabilities

1. Listen and pay attention to a person who has difficulty speaking.
2. Speak calmly, slowly, and directly to a person who may need you to repeat instructions due to short-term memory deficits. Try using different wording and allow time to be understood.
3. Provide information gradually. Some people may experience "sensory overload" and become disorientated or confused if there is too much to absorb at once.



Visual Disabilities

1. Greet a person who is visually impaired by letting the person know who and where you are. If a new person approaches, introduce him or her.
2. When offering walking assistance, allow the person to take your arm and tell him or her if you are approaching steps or inclines or are turning right or left. Use clock cues ("the door is at two o'clock.")
3. Alert people who are blind or visually impaired to posted information.