

<b>Persons With Disabilities</b> <u>Terminology Guide</u>	
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Birth defect: congenital defect, deformity</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with a disability since birth, person who has a congenital disability.</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Suffers from: afflicted by, victim of</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with a disability, person who has cerebral palsy. Having a disability is not synonymous with suffering. A person with a disability is not a "victim."</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Blind (The): visually impaired (The)</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person who is blind, person with a visual impairment.</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Deaf-mute: deaf, dumb</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person who is deaf. Culturally, linguistically deaf people (that is, sign language users) are properly identified as "The Deaf" (upper-case "d"). People who do not use sign language are properly referred to as "The deaf" (lower-case "d") or "people who are deaf."</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Confined to a wheelchair: wheelchair-bound</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person who uses a wheelchair. A wheelchair is a means to get around independently; it is not "confining."</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Hard of hearing (The): hearing impaired (The)</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person who is hard of hearing. These individuals are not deaf and may compensate for a hearing loss with an amplification device or system.</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Cripple: crippled, lame</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with a disability, person with a mobility impairment, person who has arthritis, a spinal cord injury, etc.</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Handicapped (The)</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with a disability, unless referring to an environmental or attitudinal barrier. In such instances, "person who is handicapped by" is appropriate.</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Mentally Retarded: moron, imbecile, retarded, mongoloid</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with an intellectual disability.            One can say "a person with Down's Syndrome," only if relevant to the story.</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Handicapped parking, bathrooms</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Accessible parking, accessible bathrooms.</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Normal</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person who is not disabled. "Normal" is only acceptable in reference to statistics, e.g., "The norm."</p>	<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Insane: lunatic, maniac, psycho, mental patient, schizophrenic</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Persons with a mental health disability, person who has schizophrenia, person who has depression.</p>
<p><b><u>Do not use or say...</u></b>            Physically Challenged: differently able</p> <p><b><u>Do use or say...</u></b>            Person with a disability.</p>	<p>It is important to remember that the development of appropriate terminology is still in progress; however, the above terms are currently in use. Obviously, words such as "crazy," "demented," "deviant," "loony," "mad," and "nuts" should never be used. The term "insane" should only be used in a strictly legal sense.</p>