



Allegheny County Department of Human Services Helpful Resources

People-first Language

Acceptable	Unacceptable
Person with a disability. "Person with (name disability)" It may refer to a physical, mental, sensory or intellectual disability.	Cripple, crippled, handicapped, handicapped person. Never identify a person with a disability solely by their disability. afflicted with (disability). Suffers from (disability).
Person with a physical disability.	Cripple. Crippled. Handicapped. Handicapped person.
Person with a mental illness	Crazy. Sick. Sicko. Mad. Insane. Nuts. Out of her/his mind. Psycho.
Person with deafness. Person with a hearing impairment. Person who is non-verbal.	Deaf. Dumb. Mute.
Person who is blind. Person who is visually impaired.	The blind, blind person. Visually impaired person.
Person who has an intellectual disability. Person who has a developmental disability.	Retarded. Mentally retarded. Imbecile. Idiot.
Person with Autism. Person with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Person on the spectrum. Person with Asperger's.	Autistic person. Autistic. Freak.
Person who uses a wheelchair. Person who uses crutches.	Confined/restricted to a wheelchair. Wheelchair bound. Wheelchair user.

A person who does not have a disability. Normal. Healthy.

Person who is homeless. Person who is experiencing a housing crisis. Person who lives outdoors. Person who is experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Homeless person. Street person. Vagrant. The homeless.

A person with a speech impairment, who has a speech disability, speech disorder, or communication disability Stutterer, tongue-tied

A person with cerebral palsy CP victim, spastic

A person with epilepsy, person with seizure disorder Epileptic

Seizure, epileptic episode or event Fit, attack

A person who has a learning disability Slow learner, retarded

A person of short stature, little person Dwarf, midget

A person with spinal cord injury, person with paraplegia, person who is paralyzed Paraplegic, quadriplegic

A person with a congenital disability, birth anomaly Birth defect

A person who has had polio or experienced polio Post-polio, suffered from polio

A person who stays at home, or has a difficult time getting out Homebound

A person with Alzheimer's disease, person who has dementia Senile, demented

Incarcerated person, person in jail,
person convicted of X. Prisoner is
acceptable on occasion

Inmate, felon and offender

Accessible parking, parking for people
with disabilities

Handicap parking