



# Your Words, Our Image

You are in a unique position to shape the public image of people with disabilities. By putting the person first and using these suggested words, you can convey a positive, objective view of an individual instead of a negative, insensitive image.

## Do say

Disability

People with disabilities

Person with spinal cord injury

Person with autism, on the autism spectrum

Person with Down syndrome

Person of short stature

Uses a wheelchair, wheelchair user

Has a learning disability

Has chemical or environmental sensitivities

Has a brain injury

Blind, low vision

Deaf, hard of hearing

Intellectual disability

Amputee, has limb loss

Congenital disability

Burn survivor

Post-polio syndrome

Service animal or dog

Psychiatric disability, mental illness

How should I describe you or your disability?

Accessible parking or restroom

## Don't say

Differently abled, challenged

The disabled, handicapped

Cripple

Autistic

Mongoloid

Midget, dwarf

Confined to a wheelchair, wheelchair-bound

Slow learner

Chemophobic

Brain damaged

Visually handicapped, blind as a bat

Deaf-mute, deaf and dumb

Retarded, mental retardation

Gimp, lame

Birth defect

Burn victim

Suffers from polio

Seeing eye dog

Crazy, psycho, schizo

What happened to you?

Handicapped parking, disabled restroom

## Want more information?

Download our brochure *Guidelines: How to Write and Report About People with Disabilities* at [www.rtcil.org/guidelines](http://www.rtcil.org/guidelines).

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