

Proper Disability Terminology

Preferred ☺	Avoid ☹
Accessible parking spot/accommodations	Handicapped accessible/handicapped parking
Children with Disabilities	Special Children/Special Needs kids
Individuals without a disability	Able-bodied; normal; whole
Individual without an arm/leg; individual missing limb	Amputee
Individual with a physical disability	Crippled, handicapped; deformed; defective
Individual with a spinal cord injury	Quadriplegic; paraplegic; incapacitated
Individual with multiple sclerosis (MS)	Person who suffers from MS
Individual who uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair-bound/confined to a wheelchair
Individual who is blind or has low vision	The blind
Individual who is deaf or hard of hearing	The deaf; deaf and dumb; mute; hearing impaired
Individual with burns	Burn victim; disfigured
Individual of short stature	Dwarf or midget
Individual who had a stroke	Stroke victim/Suffered from a stroke
Individual with a congenital disability	Deformed/person with a birth defect
Individual with a cleft lip/cleft palate	Hare lip
Individual with epilepsy or a seizure disorder	Epileptic; spastic; person who has "fits" or "attacks"
Individual living with HIV or AIDS	HIV or AIDS victim
Individual with a learning disability	Slow learning; retarded; stupid
Individual with an intellectual disability	Mentally retarded; slow; dim-witted
Individual with dyslexia	Dyslexic
Individual with a psychiatric disability or with a mental health diagnosis	Crazy; maniac; lunatic; demented; schizo; psycho; feeble-minded
Individual with a speech disability	Speech impairment; speech impediment