

What to do when you see a blind person

- When you address a blind person, identify yourself immediately so there is no mystery as to who you are.
- Speak directly to a blind person so the individual can follow your voice.
- Don't assume that a blind person is unable to participate in certain activities. Let that person make the decision.
- When guiding a blind person, offer your arm for assistance. A blind person can anticipate your movements by walking slightly behind you.
- When you're leaving...say so.
- It's okay to use words like "look", "see", and "blind". Avoiding them may make a blind person self-conscious.
- Offer understanding, consideration, and friendship to a blind person – not pity!
- Caution a blind person about ascending or descending stairs, curbs, or obstacles.
- Offer assistance when you see a blind person trying to cross a busy intersection, but don't be discouraged by a "No, thank you."
- Offer to read newspapers, magazines and other printed material for a blind person.
- Let blind people speak for themselves – they don't need interpreters.
- When speaking to a blind person, don't raise your voice. Remember, that person is blind, not deaf.
- Don't distract a guide dog from his main purpose of safely leading his master. Ask for permission before petting.