



Allegheny County's link to information and services for

- Individuals with disabilities and their Families,
- Service providers and
- County staff

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1-877-755-5222
Voice and TTY

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Information is available on-line at
<http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/dhs/tdc>



People-First Language

Positive language empowers.
When writing or speaking about or with people with disabilities, it is important to put the person first, not their disability. Emphasize abilities, not limitations.

Affirmative replaces **Negative**

Person with autism	Autistic
Person with a brain injury	Brain damaged
Burn survivor	Burn victim
Person with a cognitive disability	Retarded
Persons of small stature	Midget, Dwarf
Person who uses a wheelchair	Wheelchair bound
Person with a congenital disability	Birth defect
Person who is deaf or hard of hearing	Deaf mute
Person with Down Syndrome	Mongoloid
Person living with HIV or AIDS	AIDS victim
Person with a learning disability	Slow learner
Person with a psychiatric disability	Crazy, Psycho
Person with epilepsy	Epileptic

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