No Need to be Awkward: Disability Etiquette for Everyone!
Will begin at 12:30pm EDT
TransCen, Inc.
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Customize Your View continued

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Archive
• This webinar is being recorded and can be accessed within a few weeks
• You will receive an email with information on accessing the archive

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Major barrier is not the disability itself...

1. What we do not know about the disability (fear of the unknown)
2. What we think we know about the disability (ignorance)
3. Pain/discomfort (attitude)

Remember...

- Disabilities come in numbers of ONE
- "Disability" is the only minority group that you can become a member of at any point during your life

Empathy not Sympathy:

Interacting Respectfully with People with Disabilities
Think about what you have been taught about, and how you view, people with disabilities . . .

Empathy vs. Sympathy

The Human Experience of Disability

We are not...
- Tragic or pitiful
- Helpless
- Angry or vengeful
- Stoic or brave
- Trying to be inspirational
- All alike

We are individuals who...
- Do things a little differently
- May see our disability as a part of our self identity
- Have the same needs, desires, talents, as others and deserve the same access to opportunities

Communication: the Basics

Disability-First Language:
- Draws attention to limitation and weakness
- Defines the person as their disability
- Draws attention to stereotype

People-First Language:
- Focuses first on the person, not their disability
- Focuses on their ability and not their disability
- Draws attention to the unique individual
Is it OK to Help?

It is okay to ask the person if they would like assistance and to let them tell you how you can help.

General Considerations

• Relax — Do not be afraid to make a mistake
• Treat adults as adults; they are people first
• Do not make assumptions about what they can and can’t do
• Do not assume they experience their disability the same way you do or would
• Offer assistance, and if accepted, follow the lead of the individual
• Address the individual, not their companion or interpreter
• Do not distract service animals

To ask a question about disability etiquette:

https://www.transcen.org/1085

Ask your questions in the comments section of the webpage.
Thank you!

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Disability Sensitivity Training Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gv1aDEF1Xq8&t=4s