



Quick Disability Etiquette Tips

- When you greet someone with a disability, greet them the same way you would anyone else.
- Speak to the person the way you would like to be spoken to. Talk directly to the person, not their caregiver or assistant.
- Be respectful. No one wants to be talked down to. Be as formal or as familiar with the person as you are with anyone else.
- You should not assume a person with a disability needs help. They know their abilities best.
- It's always OK to ask. If they accept help, wait for their instructions.
- People appreciate their privacy. Ask if you may discuss a person's disability only if it is relevant to the conversation.
- Some people need extra time to gather their thoughts. Please be patient and let them set the pace.
- Service animals are working. You should not pet or try to distract a service animal.
- It's OK to use common phrases, such as: "See you later," "Gotta run," or "Did you hear about that?" Chances are the person with a disability will understand.



Department
of Health