

Disability Etiquette Guidelines

Respectful Ways to Communicate with and about People with Disabilities

Based on Resources from the Employer Assistance and Resource Network on Disability Inclusion (EARN)

Background

To ensure a disability-inclusive culture, parishioners need to understand the basics and have the opportunity to learn and refresh their knowledge. This training matters when parishioners interact with others. Always rely on common sense to guide your interactions with people with disabilities; behave in the same way with people with disabilities that you would with anyone else. This offers some general guidelines and best practices for interacting with people with disabilities. These are basic recommendations and some suggested etiquette. Use your best judgment and consider the personal preferences of the person with whom you are interacting.

Category	Guidance
Introduce Yourself	
Speak Directly to the Person	
Use Common Sense	
Avoid Intrusive Questions	
Focus on Skills	
Question Your Assumptions	
Respect Identity Preferences	
Be Mindful about the Language You Use	
Ask First when Offering Assistance	
Do Not be Afraid to Talk	
Make Accessibility a Priority	
DO Not be Afraid to Make a Mistake	

<https://askearn.org/page/disability-etiquette>