



Interacting with persons with visual impairments



- When first meeting a person with severe loss of vision, identify yourself and introduce anyone else who might be present.



- When offering a seat to a person with visual impairment, place their hand on the back or arm of the seat.

- Talk to a blind person the way you would talk to anyone else. Be natural, not patronizing.
- Don't be intimidated to use the words, "see", "hear", etc. in your conversation.
- If guiding a person with a visual impairment, let them take your arm. Never take their hand and lead them or push them forward from behind.
- Describe your surroundings as you walk. Describe what is coming up, such as steps or obstacles. Do not leave the person in an open space, guide them to a chair or the wall or to a group of people and make introductions.
- Do not leave the person without excusing yourself first.
- Do not pet or distract a guide dog.

