

Deaf-Blind

A person who is deaf-blind has a combined loss of vision and hearing. This makes it difficult for people to access information.

Most people who are deaf-blind are accompanied by an intervener, a professional who helps with communicating.

Using words	
Don't say	Say
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• deaf and dumb• deaf mute• the deaf-blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a person who is deaf-blind

Tips on how to interact with people who are deaf-blind

- Don't assume what a person can or cannot do. Some people who are deaf-blind have some sight or hearing, while others have neither.
- A person who is deaf-blind will probably give you a card or a note explaining how to communicate with them.
- Speak directly to the person as you normally would, not to the intervener.
- When you approach a person who is deaf-blind, make sure you identify yourself to the intervener.
- Don't touch or address service animals — they are working and have to pay attention at all times.
- Never touch a person who is deaf-blind suddenly or without permission unless it's an emergency.