

CIRCULAR



Topic
**People First Respectful Language
Modernization Act of 2006**

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

This Circular is to remind employees of the requirements of the People First Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2006 that became effective September 29, 2006. The Act applies to every element of the District Government and includes the DC Official Code, DC Municipal Regulations, DC Register, and all written materials issued by a District agency, either for internal or external use.

Editorial Standards for References to Persons with Disabilities

All new, revised, or republished regulations, rules, policies, publications, signage, and all internet publications shall, when referring to persons with disabilities:

1. Avoid any use of the following terms, except as required by any law or regulation: “afflicted,” “cripple,” “crippled,” “defective,” “feebleminded,” “handicapped,” “handicap,” “idiot,” “lunatic,” “imbecile,” “insane,” “invalid,” “maimed,” “moron,” “suffering,” “wheel chair user,” or “wheelchair bound.”
2. In place of the terms listed above, use “person,” “people,” “individual,” “individuals,” “adult,” “adults,” “child,” “children,” or “youth” in sentence construction so that the language refers to individuals:
 - a. With disabilities or with conditions that result in disability;
 - b. Who have disabilities or who have conditions that result in disability; or
 - c. Who use or who need assistive technology.

Any employee with questions about an MPD document, signage, or publication that may need to be brought into compliance with this law should contact:

- MPD Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, Frank Anderson at, (202) 727-2900 or email Frank.Anderson@dc.gov in the Office of Organizational Development, Policy and Program Development Division.

//SIGNED//
Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

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