

Physical impairment

1 Do not lean on, or touch a person's wheelchair - it is part of their personal space.

2 Always speak to the person with the disability and not to the person accompanying them.

3 When talking to a wheelchair user, sit on a chair in order to sit at their eye level. If you have to stand, stay at a distance so that the person does not strain his/her neck.

4 Never ask a wheelchair user to hold items, e.g. coats. Do not put your drink, for instance, on the desktop attached to someone's wheelchair.

5 Do not push a person's wheelchair without their permission.

6 People using canes or crutches need their arms to balance themselves, so never grab them by the arm.

7 Put out mats on slippery floors for persons using canes or crutches, although people using wheelchairs prefer floors without mats.

8 Place items within a wheelchair user's reach.

GOLDEN RULE: ask the person!



Need more information?

Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities
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