

## ADA Compliance Hotel Series – Blind or Low Vision

Approximately 2.5 million people in the United States are “legally blind” – meaning that even with corrective lenses, they have less than 20/200 visual acuity or that their visual field is 20 degrees or less, regardless of acuity. Many of them have some residual vision. Only about 5% of blind people use Braille for reading; so most people who are legally blind are able to read large print.

Many have “low vision,” but they have some significant impairment that limits their ability to see well under different circumstances.

You may encounter a visually impaired person at the front desk. They may be wearing thick glasses or dark sunglasses or carry white canes. They may use a service dog or walk with another person as a sighted guide. And some who are legally blind or who have low vision may not use a cane or wear glasses of any kind.

To make sure you do not discriminate against people who are blind or who have low vision, think about how guests use your hotel:

How do guests arrive at your hotel and what do they do once they get there?

How do guests check-in and check-out?

How do they move about your facilities?

How are the rooms set up?

What in-room guest services are provided?

What other amenities are available?

Paying attention to details while assessing the needs of a blind or low vision person is critical for successful accommodation.

If you have specific questions concerning the ADA, call the Department of Justice’s [ADA Information Line](#).

800-514-0301 (voice)

833-610-1264 (TTY)