Style Guide – Relevant to Disability Issues

**Eponyms do not take the possessive form;**
Down not Down’s, Klinefelter not Klinefelter’s

**Always use people-first nomenclature**
A child with Down syndrome, not a Down syndrome child

**Descriptive adjectives cannot become class names (nouns)**
Do not use the retarded, the disabled, etc.
Also, obviously, not retardates (normates is problematic)

**Avoid deprecatory descriptors**
Such as low functioning, deficit, deficiency, affliction, slowness
(there are many kinder alternative forms)

**The adjective “handicapped” has almost no appropriate use**
(refers to societal constrictions, not personal status)
The word “disabled” is preferred, but used thoughtfully

**Avoid stereotypic words and ideas, with limited expectations**
Such as “persons like that ...”
Or preconceived notions about teenagers, etc.

**An individual is never a “case”**
This is a legal term, or part of public health statistics

**A male or female should not be a primary identifier**
Use boy, man, girl, woman
Use brother and/or sister, rather than sibling

**A baby is never a “product” of a marriage or union**

**Assume important judgment-making capacity of most consumers**