

# Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

**Free Library of Philadelphia**  
919 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-5289  
215-683-3213  
Toll Free: 1-800-222-1754  
Fax: 215-683-3211  
flpblind@freelibrary.org



## APPLICATION FOR FREE LIBRARY SERVICES Individuals

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The Free Library of Philadelphia's Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) offers a wide variety of services for customers throughout the Commonwealth. Some are available on site, and many are available free through the mail via our partnership with Carnegie Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Pittsburgh. **These services are provided without charge to all eligible readers.**

**I am interested in the following types of materials (check all that apply):**

Braille

Large-print

Descriptive DVDs

Audio

Downloadable books and magazines

**PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                    First Name                                      Initial                                      Last Name

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M F Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States. By law, preference in the lending of books and equipment is given to veterans.

**TO BE COMPLETED BY CERTIFYING AUTHORITY**

I certify that the applicant named is unable to read or use standard printed material for the following reason(s): (See definitions under Eligibility Criteria.)

\_\_\_ Blindness                      \_\_\_ Deaf/Blindness                      \_\_\_ Visual Disability

\_\_\_ Physical Disability                      \_\_\_ Organic Reading Disability\*  
(e.g. dyslexia) \*Signed by M.D. or O.D.

Certifier's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization and Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Empowering customers  
through accessible services**



*Fold in half at line, tape closed, and mail.*

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## **BOOK, MAGAZINE, AND NEWSPAPER SERVICES**

Check the types of services you want to receive:

- Braille
  - Books
  - Magazines
  - Downloadable (Must sign up separately for BARD service)
- Audio (Includes the loan of a player)
  - Books
  - Magazines
  - Downloadable (Must sign up separately for BARD service)
- Large print books
- Descriptive DVDs
- NFB-Newsline service (audio version of newspaper through a touch-tone telephone}

## **RETURN OF BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT**

Audiobook players and accessories are supplied to individuals on extended loan. If this equipment is not being used in conjunction with recorded reading material provided by the Library of Congress and its cooperating libraries, it must be returned. A customer must borrow at least one book or magazine per year to maintain the service and retain the use of the player.

If my requested books are not available, the library may select books for me.

YES (Check interest categories on the next page.)

NO (Please send in a list of requested titles from our catalogs.)

## READER INTEREST SURVEY

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure/Thriller | <input type="checkbox"/> Horror             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American   | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals/Nature     | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspirational      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best-sellers       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking            | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities       | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science/Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health             | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports/Recreation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> War                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History            | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns           |

Subjects not listed: \_\_\_\_\_

Specific authors: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DO NOT select the following for me: (check as many as apply)**

- Books containing any descriptions of violence
- Books containing any descriptions of sex
- Books containing any strong language
- Long books (more than 20 hours of audio)

### **SELECT ONE READING LEVEL:**

- Adult reading level books
- Young adult books
- Juvenile: Indicate reading grade level (if appropriate): \_\_\_\_\_

### **ACCESSORIES FOR AUDIO PLAYERS:**

- Headphones
- Amplifier

# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR LOAN OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

## A. The following persons are eligible for loan service:

1. Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.

## 2. Other physically disabled persons as follows:

(a) Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material.

(b) Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.

(c) Persons certified by competent authority as having a reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.

B. In cases of blindness, visual disability, or physical limitations, “competent authority” is defined to include doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, therapists, professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (e.g. social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents). In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.

C. In the case of reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

D. Qualified readers must be residents of the United States including the several states, territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia, or American citizens domiciled abroad.

## Lending of Materials and Classes of Borrowers

A. **Veterans.** In the lending of books, recordings, reproducers, musical scores, instructional texts, and other specialized materials, preference shall be given at all times to the needs of the blind and physically disabled persons who have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States.

B. **Institutions.** The reading materials and sound reproducers for the use of blind and physically disabled persons may be loaned to individuals who qualify, to institutions such as nursing homes and hospitals and to schools for the blind and physically disabled for the use of such persons only. The reading materials and sound reproducers may also be used in public or private schools where disabled students are enrolled; however, the students in public or private schools must be certified as eligible on an individual basis and must be the direct and only recipients of the materials and equipment.