



COURTESY Rules of Blindness

I am a blind person. Please say hello and get to know me! I want people to feel comfortable around me. Here are some simple tips.

Cane – My cane (or guide dog) is my independent travel aid. If you think I might need help, please just ask me.

Ordinary – Blind people are ordinary. It feels awkward if you think I am amazing when I accomplish ordinary tasks like walking or tying my shoes. I also like ordinary things and have ordinary hobbies. It is okay to be amazed if I do something **really** exceptional.

Understand – I may not recognize your voice if I don't know you well. Please say, "Hi, it is Sue."

Remember – I may have some sight, but use nonvisual techniques and tools like a cane because it works best for me. Sometimes people think I am "faking" because I see a little, but I am just picking techniques that are most efficient and safe in light of my vision.

Talk – Please talk to me rather than a companion, and there is no need to speak up so just use your normal speaking voice and talk with me like you would with other people.

Experience – I probably have years of experience using nonvisual techniques to live my life. Feel free to ask me how I do something, or how best you can assist me, if help is needed.

See – It's okay to still use words such as "see" and "look." I will talk with you like everyone else, although I may not be able to make direct eye contact.

Yield – In all 50 states, the law requires drivers to yield the right-of-way when they see my extended white cane or guide dog. Only the blind may legally

carry white canes. I listen to traffic patterns to know when to cross streets and to keep a straight line when moving around.