

Wolfner Library Eligibility Guidelines

The Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library is Missouri's public library for Missourians who cannot read standard printed materials because of blindness, visual or physical impairment or reading disability. The service is provided free-of-charge to qualified individuals. The following gives examples of conditions to look for when evaluating a person as a potential Wolfner client.

Blindness and Deaf/Blind

Vision acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lens, or the widest diameter of visual field is no greater than 20 degrees. Causes of blindness may include the following:

Birth Defect *Macular Degeneration* *Glaucoma*
Diabetes *Injury* *Retinitis Pigmentosa*

Visual Disability

Inability to read standard printed materials without special aids or devices other than regular glasses. A visual disability includes conditions known to cause impairment of vision or extreme discomfort while reading print over a period of time. Conditions may include:

Blurred Vision *Inability to Focus for an Extended Period* *Cataracts*

Physical Impairment

Inability to read or use standard printed materials as a result of physical limitations. Examples may include:

Paralysis *Missing Arms or Hands* *Confinement to iron lung or another device*
Prolonged Weakness *Lack of Muscle Coordination* *Allergic to ink*

And severe cases of:

Cerebral Palsy *Multiple Sclerosis* *Muscular Dystrophy*
Arthritis *Poliomyelitis* *Stroke*
Muscle Deterioration *Parkinson's Disease* *Nerve Deterioration*

And temporary conditions, for example caused by:

Administration of medicine requiring immobility *Surgery*

Reading Disability

Conditions must be physically based. The disability must be of sufficient severity to prevent reading regular or standard printed material in a normal manner. Only doctors of medicine, osteopathy and psychiatry may certify these applications. When certifying applications for service for persons with reading disabilities, certifying authorities are encouraged to consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

Conditions may include severe cases of:

Dyslexia *Attention Deficit Disorder* *Autism*
Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder *Chronic-Fatigue Syndrome*

Conditions that do NOT Establish Eligibility

The following are some examples of conditions that do not meet eligibility criteria for the NLS program by themselves:

Emotional illness *Hearing impairment* *Developmental Disabilities*
Illiteracy due to lack of education *Mental retardation, e.g., Down's syndrome*