

Support Service Provider (SSP) Fact Sheet

What is an SSP?

It is a Support Service Provider. They are people who provide assistance so that DeafBlind people may lead more independent lives. They do not make decisions for DeafBlind, but rather empower the DB person by providing visual information and assisting with the visual evaluation of information.

SSPs can provide the following services:

- Act as sighted guides
- Facilitate communication and input visual/environment information
- Ensure the safety of DeafBlind individuals
- Guide for recreational activities; e.g.; shopping, exercise, shows, restaurants, etc.
- Guide for, and assistance with errands; e.g.; haircut, dry cleaners, banking, post office, etc.
- Ride/Guide; e.g.; train, bus, airport
- Mailing reading
- Assistance with food shopping
- Assistance with basic banking
- Visiting and making calls

SSPs cannot provide:

Rides only (depending)

- House cleaning
- Interpreting
- Teaching
- Personal care; cooking or bathing, carrying luggage, etc.
- Do errands without being physically accompanied by the DB person

SSPs do not make decisions for DB people. They can assist with the visual evaluation of information, with the understanding that different people have different ideas and opinions about what looks good or bad, what is popular, what is cheap or expensive, etc. The SSP must use their judgment when giving information to DB (for example: "Which dress is prettier?" or "What colors match best?"). The SSP can give their opinion if asked, but must remember the final decision is up to the DB individual.