Devon in Sight Understanding Your Eye Condition Fact Sheet 36

Registering Your Sight Loss

Introduction

“Registration” simply means being on your local social service’s register of people who are either severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted). It's voluntary and is completely confidential and your details won’t be shared.

How do I get registered?

Step one: getting a referral to an eye specialist

If you are having problems with your sight, visit a high street optician (an optometrist) or your GP for an initial check-up. If necessary, they will then refer you to an eye clinic for an appointment.

At your appointment in the eye clinic, an eye specialist (called an ophthalmologist) will examine the health of your eyes and your eyesight.

Step two: the ophthalmologist decides if you can be certified

Your eye specialist will measure how good you are at seeing detail at a distance (your visual acuity) and how much you can see from the side of your eye when you’re looking straight ahead (your field of vision).

Our fact sheet on the "criteria for certification" will tell you more about what the specialist will test for.

If your ophthalmologist judges that you can be certified, they will complete an official certificate with the results of your eye examination, as well as information about your circumstances.

In England and Wales this certificate is called the Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI). In Northern Ireland it's called A655, in Scotland it's called the CVI (Scotland) form.

Step three: registration with your local social services

After receiving a copy of your certificate, your local social services team should contact you to ask if you wish to be included on its register of blind and partially sighted people. If you say "yes" then you become registered.

If you choose not to be registered, you can still get support from social services to help you remain independent.

What happens after you're registered?

Social services should contact you to discuss carrying out a needs assessment. The aim of this assessment is for Sensory Team to find out what help and advice you need to remain independent. For example, this could include help with everyday tasks such as cleaning and cooking, keeping in touch with friends and family, or with transport. If social services don't contact you to discuss your needs assessment, you can contact Devon in Sight who can make a referral into the Sensory Team for you.

The advantages of registering

There are some very significant advantages to getting registered. Firstly, it can make life more affordable by enabling you to claim a wide range of concessions.

These include:

- A half-price TV Licence,
- help with NHS costs,
- help with your Council Tax bill and tax allowances,
- leisure discounts and
- free public transport.

Which concessions you are entitled to depends on whether you are registered as severely sight impaired or sight impaired.

Although being registered does not automatically entitle you to any particular welfare benefits, it does often make it easier for you to claim some of them. Your registration confirms your sight loss and helps as evidence in your claim.

Your local council will often give you a registration card that proves your registration status. Having this can help to prove your entitlement to concessions, including when you're visiting places of interest.

What to do next?

If you need any further advice call our Helpline: 01392 876 666

Devon in Sight is a member of the **Helpline Partnership Community.**

Credit

We would like to thank the **RNIB** for their kind permission to reproduce this information.

Further Support Available from Devon in Sight

Devon in Sight offers a range of holistic services for anyone affected by sight loss, who either live in or work across Devon. We can provide support to people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, friends and carers.

Our Sight Loss Services focus on four key areas, **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)**, **Independent Living**, **Health and Wellbeing**, and **Influencing Change** (Making the world a better place for people with sight loss).

Information Disclaimer

Devon in Sight is committed to producing Information, Advice & Guidance Resources that are clear, accurate, evidence-based, up-to-date and easy to use. We have a robust information production process based on best practice to ensure that information we produce meets the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted and their family and friends.

Devon in Sight is not a medical organisation; therefore we can only provide general information that is not intended to be a substitute for a proper medical assessment. Our information is not intended to be used for individual cases. If you have a specific question about your eye condition, we recommend that you consult an eye care professional.

Devon in Sight will not accept liability for any loss or damage or inconvenience arising as a consequence of any use of or the inability to use any information resources that it provides. People who use our Information Resources and rely on any information do so at their own risk. Devon in Sight does not represent or warrant that its Information Resources are accurate, complete or up to date.

Our Information, Advice & Guidance Resources were correct at the time of writing. However, due to research and medical advances, the content may not be completely up to date.

Devon in Sight Contact Information

Devon in Sight
Your local sight loss charity

Helpline 01392 876 666
www.devoninsight.org.uk
enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk

Devon in Sight is a Registered Charity No 1140978

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