

Meetings & wheelchair users... Five things you should know

Logistics you should consider when meeting a wheelchair user



The devil is in the details

- The correct venue is vital.... Inviting a wheelchair user to a business meeting? Think about where might suit them. It'll need to be step-free, and if your office is on the 4th floor without a lift, the meeting will be a flop before it's begun!
- Parking and public transport are also very important. Regardless of where you meet, make sure that there's accessible parking and/or an accessible tube station or bus stop nearby. If all else fails, offer the person an accessible taxi.
- Accessible Bathrooms. Everyone gets nervous before a meeting or interview, and there's NOTHING worse than being unable to relieve yourself because you can't even swing a cat in the tiny toilet cubicle.
- Allow time. We live in a very fast world, where deals are made and meetings are over within minutes. Try and leave a bit more time in your diary for a disabled person. It's nothing to do with sympathy; it will just allow them time to get a coffee, freshen up and settle without feeling it's a race!
- Anything you're unsure of? Just ask! Chances are, the wheelchair user will be able to tell you everything you need to know, so you can prepare for the perfect meeting. Good luck!

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