



WORDS TO AVOID	PREFERRED TERMINOLOGY
Brain-damaged	Brain injury
Committed	Died by suicide
Emotionally disturbed	He/she has a mental health condition/diagnosis
Handicapped	Person with a disability
He/she is autistic	He/she has autism
He/she is bipolar	He/she is diagnosed with bipolar disorder
He/she is in special education	He/she receives special education
Mentally ill	Person with a mental health condition/challenge
Mentally retarded	Intellectual disability
Psycho	He/she experiences symptoms of psychosis
Retarded	Intellectual disability
Suffering with a mental illness	Experiencing a mental illness/history of mental illness/lived experience
Wheel chair bound	He/she uses a wheelchair/mobility chair



1706 East Elm Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: (573) 751-4122
Email: OPAMail@dmh.mo.gov