

CONFIDENTIAL REGISTRY OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

INDIANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- WHAT:** Effective January 1, 1992, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) been mandated by the legislature to maintain a registry of blind/visually impaired individuals in the state of Indiana.
- PURPOSE:** The purpose of the Blind Registry is to maintain a list of blind/visually impaired individuals so that these individuals can be made aware of and put in touch with the various services that are available.
- WHO:** Every physician, holding an unlimited license to practice medicine, or licensed optometrist, is required to report to the ISDH each individual who is diagnosed with blindness or visual impairment of a degree to interfere with the person's ability to function in school, employment, or other activities of daily living.
- WHEN:** The physician or optometrist is required to make a report of the diagnosis, within ten days, to the ISDH.
- HOW:** The ISDH will provide the "Confidential Report of Blindness or Visual Impairment" forms. All information in the report will be kept confidential and will be used only for determining eligibility for assistance. Participation in any program or acceptance of services is completely voluntary. These forms may be ordered by calling the ISDH or they may be photocopied.
- PROCESS:** The ISDH, after receiving notification of an individual's diagnosis of blindness/visual impairment, will forward a copy of the report to the appropriate agency. The agency will contact the individual to determine interest in available services.
- SERVICES:** **For School-Aged Children**
- The Indiana School for the Blind (ISB) will notify the local school district of the referral and will assist the district in meeting the needs of the student.

SERVICES:
(Continued)

The ISB also offers on-campus day and residential programs and off-campus outreach services to assist local school districts. Further information can be obtained by calling the director of outreach, ISB, (317) 253-1481.

For Adults

The Blind and Visually Impaired Section, Family and Social Services Administration, is responsible for providing services to individuals who are blind/visually impaired. Some of the services provided are to help individuals become more independent and/or gain or maintain employment and includes: low vision evaluation, daily living skills instruction, orientation and mobility training, and provision of sensory aids.

There are also other services that may be available (which vary from area-to-area) that are not mentioned in this brochure, such as senior centers and rehabilitation programs. For further information, please call the Blind and Visually Impaired Section, Family and Social Services Administration, (317) 232-1433.