

The Partially Sighted Society



Information Sheet

OBTAINING MAGNIFIERS

This sheet is designed to provide you with basic information about the provision and use of magnifiers.

The majority of visually impaired people including those registered as Blind retain a degree of useful vision. Many of these can be helped to make the most of this remaining vision by the use of suitable magnifiers.

Before obtaining a Low Vision Aid (magnifier) it is essential that a visually impaired individual seek the advice of an Optician, Ophthalmologist or other Low Vision Professional. This is vital, to ensure that what is causing the visual reduction cannot be treated by medical / surgical means, or the provision of conventional spectacles. Even those with a longstanding visual condition should still visit for regular eye checks, to ensure that the development of another, possibly treatable disorder, does not occur.

In many areas of the country an Ophthalmologist will refer a visually impaired individual to the Hospital Low Vision Clinic where they can be assessed and provided with suitable aids, free of charge on a loan basis. In other areas The Sensory Impairment Team or Local Association may provide a similar service.

Ideally, everyone seeking a Low Vision Aid, should be offered a thorough Low Vision Assessment, this ensures, that they will be provided with the most suitable aids and therefore, not spend often large amounts of money, only to find that the aid they have purchased is not suited to their level of vision or requirements.

There are hundreds of different types of Aid available in different formats and strengths. Often an individual may require a number of different aids to meet their needs i.e. one for shopping, one for reading at home, one for watching Television and one for seeing Bus numbers or street signs etc. It is therefore advisable to acquire specialist advice and often training in the use of such aids.

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7/9 Bennetthorpe
Doncaster
DN2 6AA**