

COMPETENT AUTHORITY FORM for Public Library Users with a Print Disability



1. Eligibility Criteria

People are eligible to access public library materials restricted to people with print disabilities through the public library if they have a “perceptual disability” as defined by the *Canadian Copyright Act*. A print or perceptual disability prevents or inhibits a person from reading materials in conventional print format.

According to the *Canadian Copyright Act*, “perceptual disability” means an impairment that prevents or inhibits a person from reading or hearing a literary, musical, dramatic, or artistic work in its original format and includes a disability resulting from:

- a) Severe or total impairment of sight or hearing or the inability to focus or move one’s eyes;
- b) The inability to hold or manipulate a book; or
- c) An impairment relating to comprehension.

2. Applicant Information

Date: _____

Applicant’s Name: _____

Applicant’s Library Card #: _____

I consent to the Library collecting personal health information on this form for the purpose of granting me access to library materials restricted to people with print disabilities, made available through the public library.

Applicant’s Signature: _____

3. Competent Authority

I certify that the applicant is unable to read or use standard printed material because of:

- Blindness or visual impairment
- Physical disability
- Reading or learning disability

Name of competent authority: _____

Signature: _____

Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

* Competent authority refers to doctors of medicine, ophthalmologists, optometrists, registered nurses, registered therapists, special education teachers, professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public agencies (e.g. social workers, case workers, counselors).