

**1- Certification & Registration**

What is certification and registration?

People with a significant degree of sight loss are eligible to be officially registered as sight impaired (partially sighted) or severely sight impaired (blind).

The term visually impaired describes people with different degrees of sight loss, but some official terms, such as partially sighted and blind are still used at times, so they may be used in some parts of this booklet.

Being registered as severely sight impaired (blind) does NOT necessarily mean that you have total loss of vision or that you will lose your sight completely. Many people who are registered still retain a useful level of vision.

Registration is voluntary but can give entitlement to certain benefits.

The Sensory Impairment Team, part of Worcestershire County Council can register you, but first you must be seen by a Consultant Ophthalmologist at the Ophthalmology department of the hospital you attend. They can then authorise the registration status.

The Adult and Community Services Department of Worcestershire County Council has a legal responsibility to keep an up to date register of severely sight impaired/blind or sight impaired/partially sighted people living in the county. The team are made aware of this via the Ophthalmology Departments and the CVI (Certificate of Visual Impairment). Being registered may be a pre-requisite for accessing some benefits and other services.