



**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services**

**Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary**

October 15, 2009
For Immediate Release

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Drivers Should Watch for People Who Are Visually-Impaired

October 15th is White Cane Safety Day

The Department of Health Services is encouraging drivers to watch out for pedestrians carrying a white cane or using a dog guide. Wisconsin law requires drivers to stop at least 10 feet from a pedestrian carrying a white cane or using a dog guide who is attempting to cross a street.

“White Cane Safety Day reminds us to be respectful of pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired, not only today, but every day of the year,” said Secretary Karen Timberlake. “While most drivers watch for pedestrians, the White Cane Law helps make sure that drivers stop at least 10 feet away so that people who are vision-impaired can cross the road safely.”

People who are blind or visually impaired can be identified by a cane or walking stick that is white in color or white trimmed with red that is held in an extended or raised position. Dog guides are another indicator. There are approximately 200,000 individuals who are blind or visually impaired in Wisconsin.

To receive additional information about white cane safety, please contact the Department’s Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 888-879-0017.

Additional organizations of and for the blind and visually impaired include:

- County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Directory is available at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/Generalinfo/adrccontactlist.pdf>
- County Tribal and Aging Offices are listed at <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/contacts/COAGOF.htm>
- Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired, 800-783-5213, <http://www.wcblind.org/>
- Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired, 877-258-9200, <http://www.badgerassoc.org/>
- Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 800-242-882 <http://dpi.wi.gov/rl/wrlbph/index.html>
- American Foundation for the Blind, 800-232-5463, www.afb.org
- American Council of the Blind, 800-424-8666, www.acb.org
- National Federation of the Blind, 410-659-9314, <http://www.nfb.org>

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