

Language Matters Podcast

What is Person-first Language?

- Referring to individuals or groups in a way that **emphasizes them as people**, not by a certain status
- Increasingly important in different fields, such as medicine and criminal legal

Why is This Important?

- Helps **decrease stigmatization**
- **Avoids labeling** individuals by their temporary situation
- More **empowering**

Changing Our Language

Instead of:

”Prisoner”
“Criminal”
“Felon”
“Inmate”



Use:

“Resident”
“Justice-involved
person”

TAKE-AWAYS

- ✓ Our words matter.
- ✓ This issue is increasingly important in many fields. Person-first language is especially important in the medical and legal systems, as clients are particularly susceptible to dehumanizing language.
- ✓ Changing how we talk about those in the criminal legal system can decrease stigma, avoid labels, and be empowering.

Sources:

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