

Talking Book and Braille Services

Overview

The Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS), through the Illinois State Library, provides audio and braille library services through mail or digital download to Illinois residents unable to read standard print material due to permanent or temporary visual or physical disability. Individuals apply via mail, fax, or e-mail. The applications are currently produced in English or Spanish and must be certified by a doctor, ophthalmologist, optometrist, psychologist, registered nurse, professional staff of hospital/institute, or public/welfare agency (educator, social worker, caseworker, counselor).

How it Works

Individuals apply for TBBS, are contacted by a Reader Advisor to discuss interests/requests, and are then sent a free audio book player and their requested or prechosen audio books. When finished, they return and request new materials. Items are not limited to books while there are over 70,000 literature titles for clients to choose from, they also are encouraged to check out magazines, braille books, music, and descriptive videos. Those enrolled in this program will also receive a bi-monthly large print or digital download version of National Library Service's publication "Talking Book Networks". This publication is full of the latest titles, reviews of more popular books, as well as information regarding discounts and even free services that may appeal to the recipient.

How it can relate to APS and benefit our clients

Recently, we have focused on the importance of potentially providing agencies and clients our current APS publications in large print and braille. While TBBS may be an outlet to achieve this goal it also opens opportunity to assist our clients in obtaining eligibility certification and the beneficial services this agency provides. The benefits our APS clients would experience are endless; this process would provide individuals with open access to entertainment, education, access to news and current events, increase their interest and level of communication, provide opportunity to engage in new interests and activities, regain their independence and confidence in a more relaxed and comfortable setting. Talking Book and Braille Services assist in enhancing the quality of life and improving the mental state. It can lower risks for our clients as they are now able to request new materials via phone or e-mail. The Illinois State Library also recruits ambassadors for their program giving opportunity to connect APS clients with individuals that can help choose additional material for them, recommend various genres, and engage in related conversation. TBBS is a great program that could positively impact many lives of our clients.

Through collaboration with the Illinois State Library, IDoA's Adult Protective Services could reach many new registrants for the TBBS program. During field work and face-to-face interviews, using their best judgement, our caseworkers would have the ability to provide clients with TBBS applications and explain the process of how to complete, have their doctor certify by signing, and assist in the collection and submission of said application. Moving forward, Illinois State Library employees would contact the client and maintain services if the client would like to participate. It is a beneficial opportunity to bring the agencies as well as the community together.