



## Registering As Blind

If you have a visual impairment, you can register with your local council as blind or partially sighted. Doing this is worthwhile as it will give you access to concessions, vital support and welfare benefits.

### How To Apply

To get your certificate of registration, you need to follow these steps:

1. Get a referral to an eye specialist. You can visit an optician or your GP for an initial assessment, who will then refer you to a specialist (ophthalmologist) if required.
2. The ophthalmologist will carry out an eye examination, after which they will decide whether you can be certified. You need sight loss in both eyes to be considered for a certificate. The specialist can certify you as either severely sight impaired (blind) or sight impaired (partially sighted) by completing the Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI).
3. Social services will contact you once you have your certificate to ask if you would like to be added to its register of blind and partially sighted people. If you do not want to be added to the register, you can still access support from social services. If you say 'yes', you have registered as blind.

### The Eye Test

The ophthalmologist will measure your visual acuity (how well you can see detail at a distance) and your visual field (how much you can see around the edge of your vision while looking straight ahead).



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possibilities.

To find out more about the examination and certification process, please visit:

<https://www.rnib.org.uk/your-eyes/navigating-sight-loss/registering-as-sight-impaired/the-criteria-for-certification/>

## **How We Can Help**

If you live in the Barnsley borough and would like some advice about how to register as blind, you can:

- Email us at [first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk](mailto:first.contact@dialbarnsley.org.uk)
- Or call our Advice Line on 01226 240273