

The Unique Requirements Of The Chemically Injured

A chemically injured person's unique requirements are many. In a nutshell, they require as pure as possible environment in which to live, work, socialize, etc. Food, water and air must be as free as possible from toxic chemical contamination.

As a person reacts more and more to things like scented products and household and industrial cleansers, they begin to increasingly avoid going to places where they will encounter products that will make them ill. As their inability to tolerate exposure to toxic chemicals increases, their lifestyle must also change in order to reduce their symptoms and toxic reactions. Their life becomes more and more restricted and isolated.

Employment, social activity, church or community involvement, shopping (even grocery shopping), banking, etc. becomes increasingly very difficult and sometimes impossible to accomplish. It will also impact their possessions. If they can no longer tolerate synthetics, they may require a whole different wardrobe. As they react to the chemicals in the furniture that they now possess, they may require a complete change of household furniture.

On top of all these changes, there is the huge impact on their relationships with family, relatives, friends, neighbours, co-workers, and others. Not only must a chemically injured person change the personal care products that they use; but everyone living in their home must also change their personal care products. This is also true for anyone having any kind of close association with the chemically injured individual.

However, the greatest challenge for a severely chemically injured person is usually housing. Chemically injured individuals require low-toxicity housing. All materials used to build the house must be as inert as possible. This means no synthetic carpet, drywall, chipboard, particle board or plywood, etc. The usual housing building materials are typically taboo. Usually, by the time a doctor tells them they need a specialized low-toxicity house, they are already disabled. Therefore, their income is limited, and they often lack the financial resources to purchase a specialized house.

For some, their very survival depends on these requirements being met. If they cannot tolerate the air quality in the home they have, and they cannot afford a specialized low-toxicity home, they may become homeless nomads, moving from one outdoor location to another. In order to survive, some will choose to battle the elements of nature where the air is purer, instead of trying to survive in the continual exposures of indoor air pollution.

For many chemically injured individuals, these lifestyle changes and possession changes are not of their own choosing. It is mandatory that they make these changes in order to survive and in order to increase their quality of life.

Therefore, by supporting them, helping them and accommodating them, you are demonstrating that you are putting a value on their life, and you are practically demonstrating that you care. Any such actions are usually viewed with deep appreciation by the chemically injured, because support and accommodation is often rare.