

## **GLOSSARY of Terms- Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (*alphabetized*)**

**American Sign Language (ASL)** – manual (hand, facial expression, body language) language with its own syntax and grammar used primarily by persons who are deaf. Each country has its own sign language, as with spoken language, and there are regional differences in signs within the United States.

**Assistive Listening Devices** – Refers to hard-wired or wireless transmitting/receiving devices that transmit sound from the microphone directly to the listener, minimizing the negative effects of distance, noise, and reverberation on clarity. The devices transmit sound directly to the ear, but also can employ “teleloop” attachment accessed by the telephone switch in some hearing aids and cochlear implants.

**Braille** – is a system of writing using a series of raised dots to be read with the fingers by people who are blind or whose eyesight is not sufficient for reading printed material.

**Brailier** – is an all-purpose Braille writer enclosed in a grey enamel aluminum case. It is operated by six keys.

**Cane** – The type of cane a blind person uses is different from the type of cane a person with a mobility disability or the elderly use. This type of cane is longer and assists the people who are blind with locating objects on the floor and in his/her pathway that he/she will need to step around.

**Captioned Telephone (CapTel):** You dial the other person’s number, exactly the same way as with any other telephone. While you dial, the CapTel phone automatically connects to the captioning service. When the other party answers, you hear everything they say, just like a traditional call. At the same time, the captioning service transcribes everything they say into captions, which appear on the CapTel display window. You hear what you can, and read what you need to. When people call you, they need to dial the captioning service first and enter your telephone number in order for you to see captions during the call. {From CapTel Website: <http://www.captel.com/how-it-works.php> }

**CART (Communication Access Real-Time Translation)** – CART Reporters are trained court stenographers who use a computer program which translates steno into written English using a steno machine and a laptop computer. A person who is deaf or hard of hearing will read what is being said by others from a laptop, word for word, as it is being said. This service is used primarily if a person does not sign, uses cued speech, or has no other way to receive what is being said by the speakers.

**Closed Captioning** – is a method of embedding subtitles within the video signal. The subtitles can be descrambled and viewed on the television screen with the use of special decoding equipment, or if a TV was built in 1993 to present, it is required by the FCC to have a built-in decoder for closed captions.

**Companion Animal** – is a service animal, while not legally defined may provide emotional or physical support to persons with disabilities.

⚡ Never pet or playfully taunt a service animal. They are working and should not be distracted at any time.

⚡ Under the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) service animals are permitted to go almost anywhere with their owner, including on planes, buses, trains, in restaurants, parks, malls, and any other place where a regular animal “pet” might be prohibited.

**Please note: service animals are not always dogs.**

**Cued Speech** – Some Deaf and Hard of Hearing people have been educated in a system which uses 12 specific hand signals representing the sounds of the English Language. The cues, when used along with lip movements, help a deaf or hard of hearing person to more clearly understand the numerous words which look alike on the lips.

**Deaf:** used to denote individuals who, in addition to having a significant hearing loss, function by choice as members of the Deaf community, subscribing to the unique cultural norms, values, and traditions of that group. A label of pride and solidarity for those who have similar experiences use a shared form of communication and who subscribe to Deaf cultural values, norms, and traditions.

{(P. 435). From: Humphrey, J., Alcorn, B. (2007). *So you want to be an interpreter? An introduction to Sign Language Interpreting*. H & H Publishing: Renton, WA. }

**deaf:** “refers to the inability to hear as compared to “normal” hearing, generally seen as a deficit or an impairment; measured by decibels (p. 435).” This particular group typically doesn’t include themselves in the Deaf community or see themselves as a part of Deaf culture. {From: Humphrey, J., Alcorn, B. (2007). *So you want to be an interpreter? An introduction to Sign Language Interpreting*. H & H Publishing: Renton, WA. }

**Deaf-Blind** – Refers to people who have significant, but not necessarily total, loss of both vision and hearing (dual sensory loss). Deaf-Blind people may be culturally Deaf, oral deaf, late deafened, or hard of hearing and his/her mode of communication varies accordingly.

**Deaf Community:** A group of people who have shared experiences, common interests, shared norms of behavior, and shared survival techniques – coming together to form a community. Such a group seeks each other out for social interaction, emotional support and physical safety (P 2.3). {From: Humphrey, J., Alcorn, B. (2001). *So you want to be an interpreter? An introduction to Sign Language Interpreting*. H & H Publishing: Seattle, WA. }

**Deaf Culture:** a set of learned behaviors of a group of people who have their own language values, rules of behavior, and traditions. {(P 2.3). From: Humphrey, J., Alcorn, B. (2001). *So you want to be an interpreter? An introduction to Sign Language Interpreting*. H & H Publishing: Seattle, WA. }

**Descriptive Video** (sometimes called **Descriptive Captioning**) –designed for people who are Blind, the videos provide an additional narration that describes the visual elements of the film, such as the action of the characters, locations, and costumes, without interfering with the actual dialogue and sound effects. Some videos are now being made with Description caption. If ordering new materials from any agency, always inquire about to whether the video is available in descriptive captioning.

**FM and Infrared Loop Systems** – FM System or Infra red Loop System cuts out background noises and allows a hard of hearing person to receive a spoken message sent directly to the telecoil in their hearing aid or to their ear. Used often in a group setting, where there are one – two speakers. The speaker wears the microphone that allows the hard of hearing person to pick up the signal in his/her hearing aid. This signal is not broadcast beyond the user.

**Hard of Hearing (HOH):** term applied to persons whose hearing is impaired but who have enough hearing left for practical use. {From: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/hard+of+hearing> }

**Hoyer, hydraulic lift** or **barrier free lift** – A mechanical aid that assists with transferring a person from a wheelchair to a bed, a *slings* is NEEDED WITH THE LIFT: See Sling below.

**Late Deafened** – Refers to people who became deaf post-lingually (after learning to speak), and were raised in the hearing community. *Most* late-deafened people do *not* learn sign language.

**Oral Deaf** – This term refers to people who are born deaf or become deaf prelingually, but are taught to speak and do not typically use American Sign Language for communication.

**Oral Interpreting** – Oral interpreting is rendered by highly trained professionals. It involves the interpreter mouthing everything being said by whoever is speaking. The interpreter is trained to clarify words that may look similar on the lips and may include some natural gestures if necessary, to ensure comprehension.

**Quad cane** – usually a metal cane with four prongs instead of one, usually giving greater stability than a single leg cane

**Reacher** – an Assistive device used to reach far away objects. A reacher usually looks like a long stick with a hook on the far end and a trigger mechanism on the handle end. Persons with limited reach use a reacher to grab far away objects, bringing them closer within their grasps (e.g. picking papers, coins or reaching into cabinets, refrigerator, and etc.)

**Screen Reader** – Also called **Voice Output Technology**. Hardware and software produce synthesized voice output for the text that is being displayed on the computer screen, as well as for keystrokes entered on the keyboard.

Examples of product names: JAWS for Windows, OutSpoken for Macintosh, and Screen Reader 2.

**Service Animal** – A service animal is any animal that has been trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability. Specific types of service animals are defined below:

(I) "**Guide Animal**" means an animal has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular person who is blind or has low vision.

(II) "**Hearing Animal**" means an animal has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

(III) "**Service Animal**" means an animal has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular person with a physically disability other than sight or hearing.

*Please note: service animals are not always dogs.*

- ⚡ Never pet or playfully taunt a service animal. They are working and should not be distracted at any time.
- ⚡ Under the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) service animals are permitted to go almost anywhere with their owner, including on planes, buses, trains, in restaurants, parks, malls, and any other place where a regular animal "pet" might be prohibited.

**Signed English** - Sign systems exist in which persons who are deaf use sign language and mouth movements, which follow the syntax of English. Persons who utilize this service rely on qualified professionals.

**Slate** – Slates are made of metal or plastic frames and used as a guide as the person who is blind punches dots onto the paper with a stylus. The paper fits into the slate between the top and bottom of the frame and is held in place by small pins. The Braille dots are punched downward into the paper.

**Sling** – This is a device used often in conjunction with a Hoyer lift (also called a hydraulic or barrier-free lift). It is made of a strong, durable mesh netting material and is used for a person with a mobility disability to sit in. The sling has hooks usually at four corners which hook on to the lift so that the person can be lifted and transferred.

**Speech Reading** – also known as **lip reading**, through this method and depending on a person's accent, individual speech pattern, this may be a method of communicating with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing person. If the persons who are deaf or hard of hearing aren't accustomed to speech reading, having pen and paper on hand is often helpful to write down words.

**Stylus** –A pointed steel tool with a handle used to punch Braille dots.

**Tactile ASL** – refers to the signing of ASL into the palms of a deaf-blind person's hands, done by a skilled interpreter.

**Teletypewriter (TTY):** a special device that lets people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired use the telephone to communicate, by allowing them to type text messages. A TTY is required at both ends of the conversation in order to communicate. It can be used with both land lines and cell phones. Unlike text messaging, it is designed for synchronous conversation, like a text version of a phone call. {From: <http://www.phonescoop.com/glossary/term.php?gid=259> }

**Transfer** – means moving from one place to another, in this case, from wheelchair to bed, wheelchair to the commode, etc. Persons with mobility disabilities may require assistance with transferring.

**Video Phone:** a telephone that can transmit video as well as audio signals so that users can see each other. {From: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/videophone> }

**Video relay service (VRS):** allows deaf and hard of hearing individuals to have telephone conversations with hearing people. Using a videophone with real-time video connection, an interpreter relays the conversation between the two parties. {From website: <http://www.zvrs.com/z-services/video-relay-service-vrs> }

**Video Remote Interpreting (VRI):** fee-based interpreting service conveyed via videoconferencing where at least one person, typically the interpreter, is at a separate location. As a fee based service, VRI may be arranged through service contracts, rate plans based on per minute or per hour fees, or charges based on individual usage. VRI can be provided as an on-demand service and/or by appointment. Unlike video relay service (VRS), video remote interpreting is not regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or other telecommunications legislation. Video remote interpreting is currently used in a variety of settings. {From RID, Standard Practice Paper: [Video Remote Interpreting: http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/Standard\\_Practice\\_Papers/VRI\\_SPP.pdf](http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/Standard_Practice_Papers/VRI_SPP.pdf) }