

Deaf Community Action Network
DeafCAN!

*A Human Service Program of Christ the King Deaf Church
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**POSITION STATEMENT ON TREATMENT OF DEAF, DEAFBLIND,
DEAFDISABLED AND HARD OF HEARING (DDBDDHH) INMATES, AND
THOSE ON PROBATION AND PAROLE**

All Federal, State and local criminal justice systems should, at minimum, follow the guidelines established by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, many state laws, & further specified in recent settlement agreements in Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky & the Department of Justice regarding equivalent access to, and effective communication for, ALL programs and services, required and optional, for all inmates, parolees, or those on probation.

1. Jurisdictions need to immediately establish the budgets, policies, procedures, staffing/training needed to ensure equivalent access.
2. From point of entrance/arrest into the criminal justice system, through incarceration or any level of parole/probation/supervision, all reasonable accommodations needed to provide equal access to all programs and services must be provided.
3. Such accommodations include Sign Language Interpreters, amplification, and captioning provided in the amount and quality needed to ensure equivalent participation.
4. All staff directly involved must receive training sufficient to understand the challenges of DDBDDHH people, the resources/accommodations available, & how to effectively use them. When those accommodations are not available, staff should be trained sufficiently to understand and use 'natural,' effective strategies for communicating with D/HOH people, such as: limiting visual & auditory background 'noise', maintaining eye contact, etc.).
5. The full range of basic telecommunication equipment must be available, along with rapid maintenance and replacement contracts/agreements, for text/captioning phones, amplified phones, and video phones. These devices need to be available at all the same times as are available for hearing inmates and others to make phone calls.
6. Inmates must have accommodations at intake so that the most accurate information is shared, and assessment / classifications made provide the most appropriate programming.
7. Accommodations must then be available for all required and optional programs available to others, including educational, rehabilitation, vocational, medical (mental & physical), disciplinary, spiritual/religious, and other important, general communications with Corrections officials (Officers, Unit Managers, counselors, teachers, etc).
8. All medical equipment (hearing aids, cochlear implants, amplifiers, batteries, chargers, etc.) must be provided, repaired or replaced in a timely, priority fashion.
9. A specially trained ADA Coordinator must be named to oversee & insure all of the above and a non-correction-affiliated organization, fully familiar with the needs/issues of DDBDDHH people, must be given access to inmates/parolees/ and those on probation to listen to their issues/concerns and provide such feedback to the institution.

Charitable registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Choose "**DeafCAN! - Christ the King Deaf Church**" as your United Way Donor Choice.