



Communication Methods Chart

COMMUNICATION METHOD	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Individuals	Individual with LEP
<p style="text-align: center;">In-person Interpreter</p> <p>The interpreter and all parties are on-site together. It is often the preferred mode of communication for clients.</p>	✓	✓
<p style="text-align: center;">Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI)</p> <p>A CDI is a Deaf specialist who provides cultural and linguistic expertise. As a native signer with a lifetime experience as a Deaf individual, the CDI is also trained to ensure that communication is effective. The CDI is a valuable asset to any situation that requires complicated and sometimes emotional communication situations, and who often works as a unit with an ASL interpreter.</p>	✓	
<p style="text-align: center;">Intermediary or Relay Interpretation</p> <p>Intermediary or relay interpretation involves using more than one interpreter to act as a conduit for spoken or sign languages beyond the understanding of a primary interpreter. It is used for certain languages lacking certified or qualified interpreters, rare languages, home signing, or foreign sign languages.</p>	✓	✓
<p>Transliteration</p>	✓	

<p>It is a process of transmitting spoken English into any one of several English-oriented varieties of manual communication between deaf and hearing people. It can be a process of expressing ASL signs in English word order. In addition, some Deaf people who use and prefer speaking and speechreading for communication may rely on oral transliteration, a service in which an oral transliterator (or interpreter) facilitates spoken communication between the Deaf person and hearing individuals.</p>		
<p>Services in Language (bilingual staff)</p> <p>Bilingual advocates and staff provide services in the victim’s primary language. Bilingual staff must have the fluency and proficiency to communicate technical or field-specific terminology in the target language effectively. Bilingual advocates should not be used as interpreters.</p>		

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Individuals	Individual with LEP
<p>Telephonic Interpretation or “Language Line”</p> <p>The interpreter is off-site, connected by a phone line to conversation between two parties, and interprets over the phone.</p>		✓
<p>Video Relay Service (VRS)</p> <p>VRS is a video telecommunication service that allows deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired individuals to communicate over video telephones and similar technologies with hearing people in real-time, via a sign language interpreter. VRS interpreters facilitate telephone communication between people in separate locations.</p>	✓	
<p>Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)</p> <p>Video telecommunication service that uses devices such as web cameras or videophones to provide sign language or spoken language interpreting services through a remote or offsite interpreter. VRI interpreters facilitate all types of communication between people in the same location, or different locations.</p>	✓	✓

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES	Deaf/Hard of Hearing Individuals	Individual with LEP
<p align="center">Communication Access Real Time Translation (CART) or Speech to Text Service</p> <p>A service used to produce text from spoken language through a stenotype machine, notebook computer, and real-time captioning software. The service can be provided on-site or remotely.</p>	✓	✓
<p align="center">Screen Braille Communicator</p> <p>Small, portable device that enables Deaf-blind people to communicate with sighted people.</p>	Deaf-blind individuals	
<p align="center">Instant Messaging</p> <p>A form of communication Deaf people use for basic conversation or communication needs. There are apps that can be downloaded on smartphones, iPhones, computers and tablets.</p>	✓	

Additional Resources

Translating Justice Module 6: Captioning and Other Assistive Devices

Communication Technology for Persons Who Are Deafblind (video).

Perkins School for the Blind, 2014. Retrieved from:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QiTu26Own0>

This material was produced under Grant Number 2015-VF-GX-K011, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.