

# MISSOURI COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

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COMMISSION & BCI MEMBERS  
WELCOME KIT

July 25, 2022

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# About MCDHH

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## MISSION

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide leadership, education, advocacy, and programs that create value and eliminate barriers to meet the social, economic, educational, cultural, and intellectual needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Missourians.

## VISION

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be a recognized, impartial leader providing innovative and proactive services to improve the lives of all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Missourians.

## HISTORY OF THE OFFICE

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf (MCD) was established by the Missouri Legislature in 1988 with the passage of House Bill 1385. The MCD office opened in July 1990 and was housed at the Missouri School for the Deaf until late 1994. At that time the office was moved to Jefferson City. The name was changed to the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) in 2002 with the passage of House Bill 1783.

# Responsibility of the Office

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## Guiding Principles

### **Leadership**

We are committed to providing strong, visionary leadership that encourages initiatives, advocates for policies and programs for those whom we serve, and fosters open supportive communication.

### **Innovation**

We are committed to proactive, creative and strategic approaches in the continuous evaluation and improvement of our services.

### **Equality**

We are committed to ensuring that all Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind Missourians receive equitable, or fair, opportunities to live, work, and contribute just as all other citizens of Missouri.

### **Public Service as a Public Trust**

As public servants, we are committed to being open, ethical, and accountable.

We are also dedicated to the public we serve and to fostering an honest environment free of bias with respect to all individuals. We are committed to delivering all services fairly and ethically, and will place the needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and DeafBlind Missourians at the center of our activities.

### **Public Policy**

MCDHH initiates legislation beneficial to deaf and hard of hearing Missourians and advocates for its passage. MCDHH also assists the legislature and other state agencies in the development of non-statutory public policies positively affecting people with hearing loss.

# Responsibility of the MCDHH Office

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## Legal Mandates RSMo 161.405

The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing functions as an agency of the state to advocate public policies, regulations, and programs to improve the quality and coordination of existing services for deaf and hard of hearing persons, and to promote new services whenever necessary. The commission shall:

- Promote deaf awareness to the general public and serve as a consultant to any public agency needing information regarding deafness.
- Develop a system of state certification for those individuals serving as interpreters of the deaf.
- Maintain the quality of interpreting services.
- Maintain a census of persons with a hearing loss in Missouri –Census of Persons with Hearing Loss.
- Promote the development of a plan which advocates the initiation of improved physical and mental health services for deaf Missourians.
- Conduct or make available workshops or seminars as needed for educating nondeaf individuals of the problems associated with deafness and ways by which these groups or agencies can more effectively interact with those who are deaf.
- Promote the development of services for deaf adults, such as shelter homes, independent living, skill training facilities and post-school educational training which will help provide for those deaf individuals requiring such services an opportunity to live independently.
- Establish a network for effective communication among the deaf adult community and promote the establishment of TDD relay services where needed.
- Develop and establish interpreting services for state.

## STATUE

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The statue establishing the Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing can be seen on our website <https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=161>



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**Current Staff**



**CATHEE WOLFORD**

*MAY 2021- JULY 2022*



**DR. OPELUWWA SOTONWA**

*JULY 2014-APRIL 2021*



**ERNEST E. GARRETT III**

*JULY 2011-JUNE 2014*



**DR. ROY MILLER**

*SEPT 1999 -JANUARY 2008*



**GERALD COVEN**

*APRIL 1992- OCTOBER 1998*



**CLAUDE STOUT**

*JULY 1990 -OCTOBER 1990*

# Previous Office Directors

# OUR COMMISSION

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**Mission:** The Missouri Commission for the Deaf functions as an agency of the state to advocate public policies, regulations, and programs to improve the quality and coordination of existing services for deaf persons, and to promote new services whenever necessary. To these ends, the Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will work with individuals, organizations, and state departments as an active force, to better the lives and opportunities of all deaf and hard of hearing Missourians.

**Function:** The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is mandated to promote deaf awareness; to develop state certification of sign language interpreters; to maintain the quality interpreting services; to maintain a census of the deaf population in Missouri; to promote the improvement of physical and mental health services for deaf persons; and to establish an effective communication network among the deaf adult community.

There are nine members appointed by the government for three years with senate advice and consent. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, except a person appointed to fill a vacancy for a partial term may serve two additional terms.

Members requirements include:

- two members must be deaf;
- one must be a parent of a deaf child;
- one must represent the business community;
- one must represent the Missouri School for the Deaf or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- one must represent local public school administration; and
- one must be a professional from the field of audiology, psychology, speech pathology, mental health, or medicine;
- one must be an interpreter for the deaf;
- one must represent and organization that represents the interests of deaf and hard of hearing people.



# COMMISSION MEMBERS

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**Mr. Clark Hughes Corogenes**

Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Term begins: May 16, 2018

**Mr. Mike Kelley**

Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Term begins: Apr 26, 2018  
Term expires: Mar 22, 2019

**Mr. Ante Colic.**

Parent of a Deaf/Hard of Hearing child  
Term begins: Jul 27, 2018  
Term expires: Mar 22, 2021

**Vacant Slot**

Organization representing the interests of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing

**Mr. Chris Daily**

Missouri School for the Deaf or the Department of Elementary and Secondary  
Education  
Term begins: Apr 28, 2021  
Term expires: Mar 22, 2024

**Vacant Slot**

Interpreter for the Deaf

**Ms. Tia J. Morris**

Business Community  
Term begins: Oct 22, 2020  
Term expires: Mar 22, 2023

**Ms. Wendy A. Jensen**

Local Public School Administration  
Term begins: Jun 3, 2013  
Term expires: Mar 22, 2015

**Vacant Slot**

Professional from specified fields

# QUARTERLY MEETINGS

## Commission

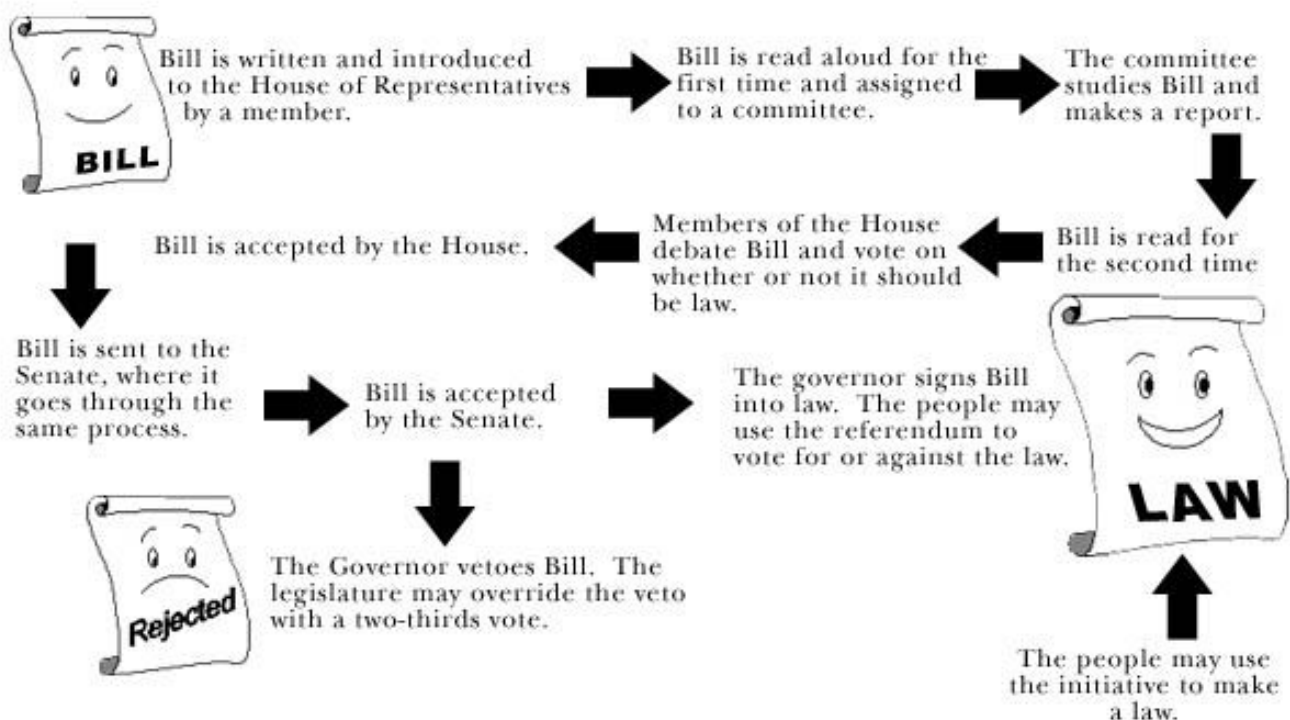
The MCDHH Commission held 4 meetings per year. These meetings are led by MCDHH staff, following the Robert's Rule of Order parliamentary procedure. Prior to each meeting, the Commissioners will communicate to MCDHH staff notifying them of upcoming meeting and take in meeting motions to add to the agenda. The meeting agenda must be finalized and posted hours in advance to meet Sunshine law requirements

Each meetings is held to the agenda, which is given listed below in order:

1. Welcome
2. Review and Approval of Open Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Open Minutes
4. Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

All agendas are required to be posted 24 hours in advance. If MCDHH passes a motion recommending a change to the statute or the law, the process will need to go through legislation, as shown:

## HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



NOTE: THIS CHART IS A SIMPLIFICATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND DOES NOT SHOW ALL POSSIBILITIES.

# OUR BCI & MEMBERS

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**Mission:** The Board for Certification of Interpreters (BCI) works to provide at least a minimum competency of interpreting skill and knowledge; to assure that skills can be maximized through training, professional development, and workshops for maintenance to insure the standardization of licensure; and to insure the rights of deaf/hearing consumers and interpreters in Missouri.

**Function:** The Board for Certification of Interpreters evaluates and certifies interpreters; establishes guidelines for interpreters according to their level or certification; maintains the quality of interpreting services; and provides interpreter training workshops to update knowledge and improve skills.

Three Members are appointed by the government to three year terms with senate advice and consent. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms, except a person appointed to fill a vacancy for a partial term may serve two additional terms.

Members requirements include:

- two members must be deaf;
- one must be a parent of a deaf child;
- one must represent the business community;
- one must represent the Missouri School for the Deaf or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education;
- one must represent local public school administration; and
- one must be a professional from the field of audiology, psychology, speech pathology, mental health, or medicine;
- one must be an interpreter for the deaf;
- one must represent an organization that represents the interests of deaf and hard of hearing people.

# OUR BCI & MEMBERS

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## **Board of Certification of Interpreters**

*Vacant Slot*

*Vacant Slot*

*Ms. Mishely Tisius- Certified Interpreter*

# QUARTERLY MEETINGS

## **Board of Certification of Interpreters**

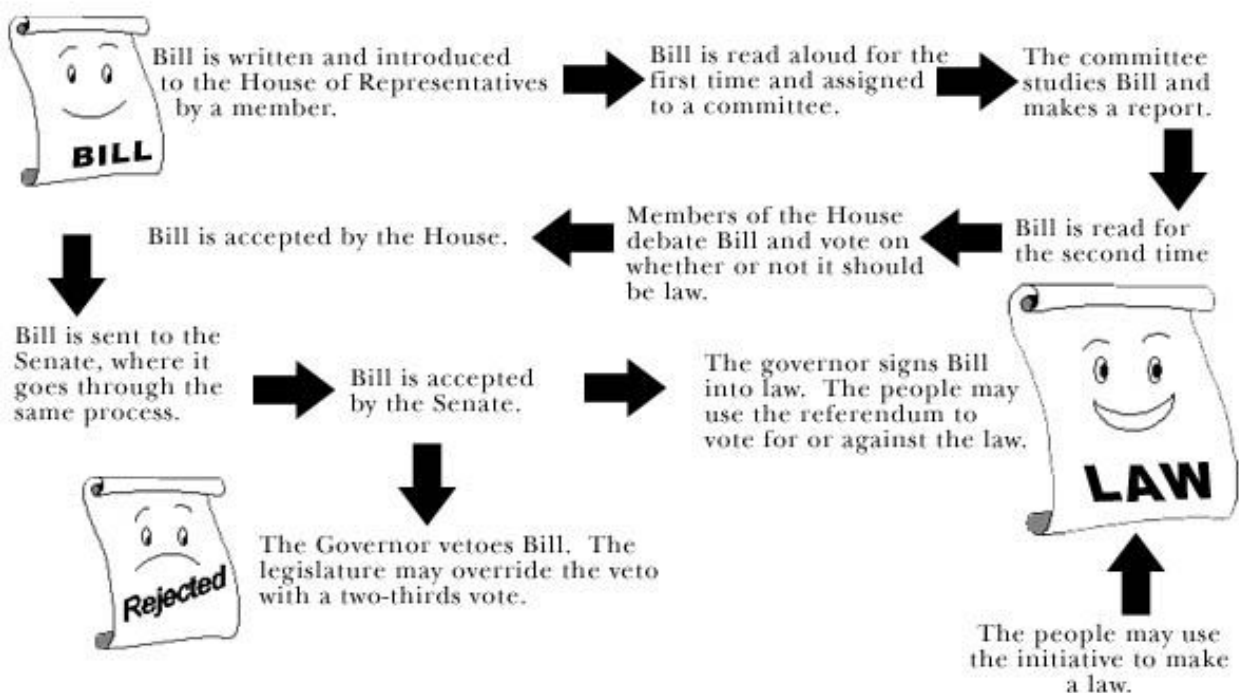
The MCDHH BCI has no less than 2 meetings per year. These meetings are led by the BCI chair, following the Robert's Rule of Order parliamentary procedure.

Each meeting is held to the agenda.

1. Welcome
2. Review and Approval of Open Agenda
3. Review and Approval of Open Minutes
4. Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment

All agendas are required to be posted 24 hours in advance. If BCI approves, passes a motion recommending a change to the statute or the law, the process will need to go through commissioners for a final review and approval as shown:

## **HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW**



NOTE: THIS CHART IS A SIMPLIFICATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND DOES NOT SHOW ALL POSSIBILITIES.

# TOWN HALL MEETINGS

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The MCDHH office hosts town hall meetings to promote engagement among commission members and constituents, as it is important to gather feedback and gain a better understanding of the community's needs and concerns related to state issues and the governor's priorities.

# ACCOMMODATIONS

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Accommodations can be made at meetings if advanced notice is given standard allow include: ASL Interpreter and CART services.

# STATUE

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The statue establishing the Missouri Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing can be seen on our website

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneChapter.aspx?chapter=161>



**Missouri Revisor of Statutes -  
Revised Statutes of Missouri,  
RSMo Chapter 161**

[revisor.mo.gov](https://revisor.mo.gov)

# MEETINGS

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More information about our upcoming MCDHH meeting dates, town hall dates, meeting minutes can be found on our website at <https://mcdhh.mo.gov/>

# APPLICATION

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If you are interested in becoming a board member please click the link for a Missouri board member application: <https://pr.mo.gov/board-member-application.asp>



**Directions**

The Missouri Division of Professional Registration is comprised of 38...

[pr.mo.gov](https://pr.mo.gov)

# INFORMATION & REFERRAL

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## **Advocacy**

Examine and evaluate public policies and programs to improve quality and coordination of existing Deaf and Hard of Hearing

## **Representation**

MCDHH represents the needs of DHHDB citizens of Missouri before the legislature and other state agencies.

## **Education**

MCDHH conducts workshops, presentations, and exhibits at various places for the purpose of educating the hearing public concerning the personal, familial, occupational, and social problems associated with hearing loss.

## **MICS**

MCDHH oversees and administers the Missouri Interpreter Certification System (MICS) on

- Assessing the skill level of and certifying all interpreters in Missouri.
- Maintaining a registry of interpreters.
- Providing continuing education opportunities for Missouri interpreters.
- Hosting an annual interpreters conference that is highly attended.

## **Hearing Aids Distribution Program**

In 2019, Governor Parson signed SB 101 to establish a statewide hearing aid distribution program (HADP) to be administered by MCDHH. The program, when funding is available, will work with licensed hearing aid providers to purchase hearing aids for low income Missourians who live below 100% of the federal poverty limit.

## **Support Service Provider (SSP)**

MCDHH offers SSP grants to provide service for DeafBlind Missourians. This program provides access to the community and communication.

# INFORMATION & REFERRAL

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## **Public Policy Development**

MCDHH initiates and assists the legislature and other state agencies in the development of public policies affecting people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

## **Available Information**

MCDHH provides a broad spectrum of information concerning topics such as hearing loss, assistive technology, Relay Missouri, Deaf Culture, the Telecommunications Access Program, sign language, and the legal rights of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

## **Electronic Resources**

MCDHH maintains a website ([www.mcdhh.mo.gov](http://www.mcdhh.mo.gov)) and a listserve (MCDHH-L) for the statewide dissemination of information including educational workshops, community events, research surveys, and action alerts to the general public. MCDHH also has a social media platform including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

## **Promote**

MCDHH hosts Deaf awareness activities, events, workshops, and seminars. These events are hosted at major venues in order to demonstrate the need for communications access for people with hearing loss.

## **Resources**

When appropriate, MCDHH provides referrals to resources and sources.

## **Oversees**

MCDHH conducts and maintains DHH census.



# DEAF COMMUNITY & CULTURE FAQ

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## WHAT IS DEAF CULTURE?

"It often comes as a surprise that many deaf individuals refer to themselves as being members of the Deaf community and ascribe to Deaf culture. These individuals view themselves as a unique cultural and linguistic minority who use sign language as their primary language. The characteristics of Deaf culture are formed out of many shared life experiences rooted in a visual world designed for communication ease. "

Source: National on the Deaf Center Postsecondary Outcomes

<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/The%20Deaf%20Community-%20An%20Introduction.pdf>

## WHAT IS THE DEAF COMMUNITY?

"The media and others in society sometimes use terms such as hearing impaired, deaf-mute, deaf and dumb, and hearing deficient to refer to deaf individuals. Within the Deaf community, these terms are seen as offensive because they imply that the deaf individual is "broken" or "inferior." A generic and more widely accepted term is deaf and hard of hearing, which refers to all people with hearing loss. The term deaf may also be used in an all-inclusive manner to include people who identify as Deaf, deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired."

Source: National on the Deaf Center Postsecondary Outcomes

<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/The%20Deaf%20Community-%20An%20Introduction.pdf>

## WHAT ARE THE DEAF IDENTIFIERS?

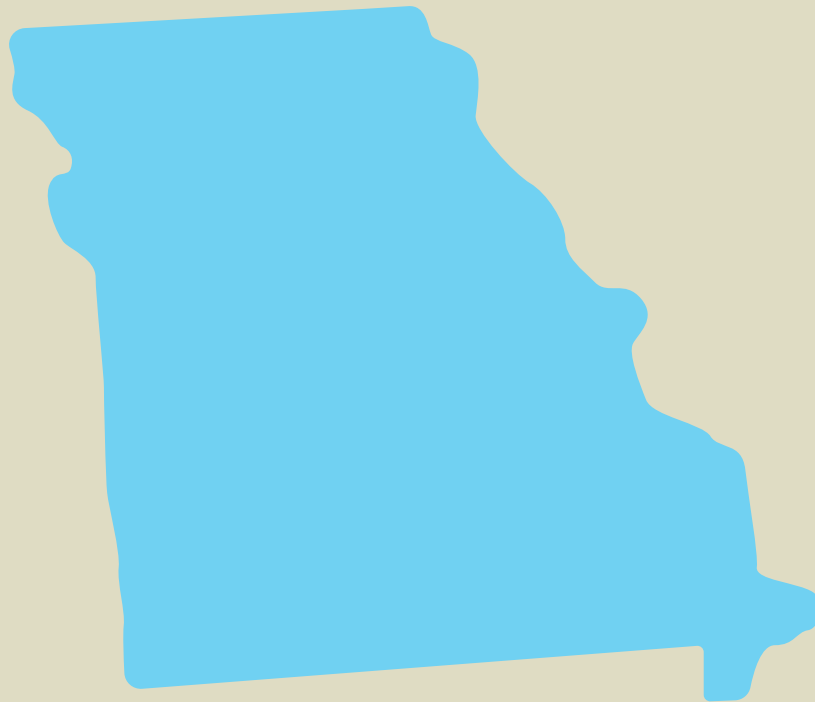
"The National Deaf Center is using the term deaf in an all-inclusive manner, to include people who may identify as deaf, deafblind, deafdisabled, hard of hearing, late-deafened, and hearing impaired. NDC recognizes that for many individuals, identity is fluid and can change over time or with setting. NDC has chosen to use one term, deaf, with the goal of recognizing experiences that are shared by all members of our diverse communities while also honoring all of our differences. "

Source: National on the Deaf Center Postsecondary Outcomes

# DEAF COMMUNITY & CULTURE FAQ

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## WHAT THE DEAF & HARD OF HEARING POPULATION IN MISSOURI?



According MO census, last dated in 2017 , there were  
10% of Missourians have a hearing loss  
9% Hard of Hearing  
1% Deaf

Nearly 600,000 Missourians have a hearing loss.

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## **CAN ALL DEAF PEOPLE READ LIPS?**

Studies show that only about 30 to 45 percent of the English language can be understood through lip reading alone. Even the most talented lip readers are not able to gather a full message based solely on lip reading, although they are often quite skilled at interpreting facial cues, body language, and context to figure it out. As you can imagine, this technique works the brain in a number of different ways and becomes exhausting over any extended period of time.

Can you read my lips? <https://vimeo.com/148127830>

## **DO ALL DEAF PEOPLE HAVE DEAF PARENTS?**

More than 90 percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents.

Source from NIDCD: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-hearing#pdf>

## **ISN'T ACCESSIBILITY ENOUGH?**

It is important to provide accessibility for Deaf-centric services. NO, accessibility isn't enough. ADA law requires accessibility for Deaf people and people with disabilities in order to meet their needs. For example, Boeing hires a deaf employee and provides an American Sign Language interpreter for training for equal communication access. It is critical to provide the best quality interpreters and CART services. Both ASL interpreters and CART providers must be certified and qualified.

## **HOW CAN I COMMUNICATE?**

"Broadly defined, communication for deaf individuals occurs through visual, auditory, or tactile modes (for individuals who are deafblind). Common visual communication modes include American Sign Language, cued speech, speech reading (lip reading), and gestures. Auditory communication includes using residual hearing and spoken English received through the ear, often augmented with a hearing aid or cochlear implant to enhance the ability to interpret sound. Tactile communication translates visual and auditory communication into the hand and other parts of the body."

Source: National on the Deaf Center Postsecondary Outcomes:

<https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/sites/default/files/Communicating%20with%20Deaf%20Individuals.pdf>

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## **WHAT IS PRO-TRACTILE ASL?**

Tactile ASL is a visually-based language while PTASL is rooted in touch and practiced on the body. PTASL, developed by and for people who are deafblind, can also be used to connect small groups of people, instead of just one-on-one communication.

Source: Perkins School for the Blind

<https://www.perkins.org/qa-how-pro-tactile-american-sign-language-ptasl-is-changing-the-conversation/>

## **WHAT IS VIDEO RELAY SERVICE?**

Video Relay Service is a form of Telecommunications Relay Service that enables persons with hearing disabilities who use American Sign Language to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment, rather than through typed text.

Source: Federal Communication Commission <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/video-relay-services>

## **COMMUNICATION BEST PRACTICE**

- Ask if they can read your lips
- Remove hearing aids without permission first
- Face/speak directly to the interpreter
- Ask the interpreter “does she/ he understand?”
- Tell the interpreter to “tell him / her”
- Rely on family or friends to interpret
- Speak fast
- Interrupt
- Shout

WHERE CAN I LEARN ASL ?



**THE ASL APP**



**MARLEE SIGNS**



**ASL CONNECT**



**ASL DEAFINED**



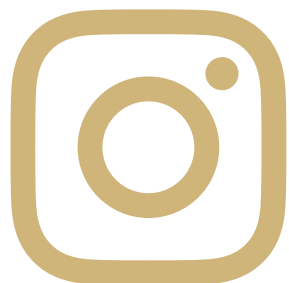
**ASL Nook**



**Signed with  
Heart**

# ***SOCIAL MEDIA***

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@MOCDDHH



MCDHH



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[HTTP://WWW.MCDHH.MO.GOV](http://www.mcdhh.mo.gov)



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