

Attachment A – Communication Assistance Definitions

Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDI) - An interpreter certified by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf who is deaf or hard of hearing. A CDI is required to register with the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing per the Sign Language Interpreter and Transliterators State Registration Act. In addition to proficient communication skills and general interpreter training, the CDI has specialized training and/or experience in the use of gesture, mime, props, drawings and other tools to enhance communication. The CDI has knowledge and understanding of deafness, the Deaf community, and Deaf culture. The CDI possesses native or near-native fluency in American Sign Language. Often a CDI works in conjunction with a Pennsylvania registered interpreter when a person who is deaf has a unique mode of communication that is not readily understood by the interpreter who can hear for various reasons.

Communication Access Realtime Translation (known as "CART" or "realtime captioning") - The immediate, verbatim translation of the spoken word into text using a stenographic machine or voice recognition software, and a computer and realtime captioning software.

Closed Caption Decoders - Closed captioning is an assistive technology that allows persons with hearing disabilities to access television programming. Closed captioning displays the audio portion of programming as text superimposed over the video. For a television receiver to display closed captions, it must use a set-top box decoder or contain integrated decoder circuitry.

Qualified Sign Language Interpreters – An individual who is State-registered under the Sign Language Interpreter and Transliterators State Registration Act and who engages in sign language interpretation or transliteration. For the purposes of this definition interpreting is the process of conveying English in grammatically correct American Sign Language and the process of conveying American Sign Language in English.

Tactile Sign – is used by people who are deaf-blind and use sign language to communicate. The person who is deaf-blind places their hands on the signer's hands to feel the shape, movement, and location of the sign.

Transliteration – The process of conveying the spoken message in another form of the same language and vice versa. For example, a Transliterators works between a spoken

language, such as English, and sign language that uses a more English-based word order.

Video Remote Interpreting - Video remote interpreting (VRI) is a fee-based interpreting service conveyed via videoconferencing where at least one person, typically the interpreter, is at a separate location.

Visual Gestural Communication – “...is not a language like English, or American Sign Language. It is a communication mode that uses gestures, facial expressions, and body language. Often individuals, who cannot communicate effectively using either a spoken language like English or a formal signed language like ASL, will be able to communicate more effectively using natural gestures....”