

REQUESTING SERVICES FOR THE COURTROOM

Q: I am going to court. How do I get a Sign Language interpreter?



A: Contact the Court Interpreter Services at 805-289-8799 (through CRS or VRS), or email ASLCourts@ventura.courts.ca.gov *three days in advance if possible*, and request an interpreter.

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

Q: I am a victim of a crime and I am Deaf. Where can I go for help?

A: Call the Crime Victim's Assistance Program directly at 805-654-3622 (through CRS or VRS). They will arrange for a meeting and an interpreter.



TELEPHONE ACCESS

Q: I need to call someone. Does the courthouse have a videophone or TTY for the public?

A: Yes. There is a **public VRS booth** in the lobby of the Ventura courthouse. In the Ventura courthouse, you can ask for a TDD in Room 118. If you are in the Simi Valley or Oxnard Courthouses, go to a public counter and request a TDD. If you are a juror, you can request a TDD at the Jury Services window, or use the VRS booth.

FAMILY LAW

Q: I need help filing for divorce and getting child support. Are there any services for the Deaf community?



A: Yes. Call the Family Law Self-Help Center at 805-289-8733 (VRS or CRS). The Center is open on different days at the Ventura and Oxnard courthouses. Contact Court Interpreter Services at 805-289-8799 (through CRS or VRS) or via email *in advance* to request an interpreter and an appointment:
ASLCourts@ventura.courts.ca.gov.

IN JAIL

Q: If I go to jail, how will I communicate?



A: When you go to jail, tell the sheriff you are Deaf. The sheriff will type DEAF next to your name in the computer, so all deputies (sheriffs) will know you are Deaf. TVs have closed-captioning and the jail has TTYs for Deaf people who are in jail. An interpreter will meet you for court. You can call the jail at 805-654-3335 (CRS/VRS) for more information.

JURY SERVICES

Q: I got a summons for Jury Duty. How do I get an interpreter?



A: On the back of the summons, there is a box to fill out if you need an interpreter. You can also call Jury Services at 805-289-8661 (CRS/VRS). Explain you are Deaf and need a Sign Language interpreter. They will give you a date to come, and they will provide an interpreter.

MEETING WITH A LAWYER

Q: I need to meet with my Public Defender (PD). How do I get an interpreter?



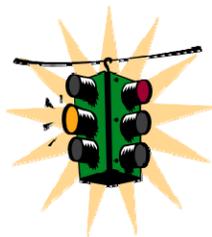
A: Call the Public Defender's Office at 805-654-2201 (through CRS/VRS). Tell them you are Deaf and need an interpreter to meet with your lawyer. Give them your case number.

Q: I am paying for my own lawyer. Will I also have to pay for an interpreter in court?

A: No. The court provides interpreters for any communication *in* court. The *lawyer* is responsible for providing an interpreter *outside* of court.

TRAFFIC TICKETS

Q: I got a ticket. What do I do?



A: Read the ticket. Sometimes you can mail in the fine (money), if you agree with the ticket. You can also go to the courthouse, Room 118. If you agree that you broke the traffic law (guilty), you can pay the ticket. If you feel you did not break the traffic law (not guilty), you can get a date to go to court. You can sometimes go to traffic school. An interpreter is usually available for questions in Room 118, or you can request an interpreter in advance by calling 805-289-8799 (CRS or VRS), or by emailing ASLCourts@ventura.courts.ca.gov.

TRAFFIC SCHOOL

Q: Are there any traffic schools taught in Sign Language or with interpreters?



A: Room 118 has a list of traffic schools. It is the traffic school's responsibility to provide interpreters, but many traffic schools are very small businesses, and are not required to provide interpreting services. If you can read English or Spanish, you may also complete traffic school through the internet.

MENTAL HEALTH

Q: I have a family member in a mental health hospital/home. How do I get a Sign Language interpreter for him/her?



A: For patient care, the hospital or home is responsible for providing the interpreter. There is often a courtroom at the hospital, where patients can help decide things such as where they will live and if they need more care. The courts will send an interpreter only for these court situations.

PROBATION

Q: I have a meeting with my Probation Officer (PO). How do I get a Sign Language interpreter?



A: Probation will provide an interpreter if you need one. Call the Probation Agency at 805-654-2132 (CRS/VRS) or your Probation Officer (PO) before your meeting, explain you are Deaf, and request an interpreter.

This brochure was developed by
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SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS FOR COURT

How to get interpreters
for different court situations

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF VENTURA



*Nuestros tribunales están
al servicio de la comunidad.*

Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009