

# Identifying a Deaf or Hard of Hearing Person

- Deaf person points to ear and then mouth as a sign for "deaf".
- Hard of Hearing person (HH) doesn't respond or responds inappropriately. Often asks speaker to repeat self. Hearing aids may be obvious.
- An international symbol of deafness or the word "deaf" is on the back of the driver's license. (MCL 257.310)
- Approved Card stored on the visor or in a purse or wallet.
- "Deaf and hard of hearing people" is preferred term over "hearing impaired people."

# Communication Tips

- Face the person and speak slowly. If it is dark, do not shine the flashlight directly into Deaf/HH person's face while you are talking. Diffuse the light so that he/she can see your lips.
- Use a pad and pen if the Deaf/HH person cannot lipread.
- Keep your sentences simple and clear. If the Deaf/HH person doesn't understand, rephrase sentences or use gestures.
- In the event of an auto accident, take Deaf/HH person's statement along with the drivers of the other cars. Too often statements are taken from the hearing persons, not from Deaf/HH persons.

# Arrest Procedures

- Obtain a qualified interpreter prior to reading the Miranda warnings. (MCL 393.505). **Note: A statement taken from a deaf person before a certified or qualified interpreter is present is not admissible in court.**
- If handcuffing is necessary, be aware that hand signals may be the person's only means of communication. If he/she is cooperative and in control, handcuffing in the front may be considered.

The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing publishes this card and interpreter directory. Contact the DODHH at 201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150, Lansing, MI 48909. 517-335-6004 (V/TTY), 877-499-6232 toll free (TV), www.mcddc-dodhh.org

# Communication Guide

for Law Enforcement Officers



Communicating with a deaf or hard of hearing person

## For communication assistance, contact: (All numbers are during the business hours except 24 hr nbr as indicated by\*)

- Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 517-335-6004 V/TTY; 877-499-6232 toll free T/V
- Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 800-968-7327 toll free
- Battle Creek, Deaf Link, 269-288-0464
- Grand Rapids, Deaf Etc., 616-732-7358
- Pontiac, Deaf C.A.N., 248-523-1998\*
- Detroit Metro, Deaf Options, 313-961-8118 T; 313-961-8120 V
- Detroit Metro, Deaf, Hearing and Sign Language Center, 313-341-1353
- Flint, Communication Access Center, 800-466-7744\* toll free
- Saginaw, V.O.I.C.E., 989-497-7111
- Roseville, Sign Language Services of Michigan, 810-459-3967\*

\*24-hr

FOLD HERE

<b>ACCIDENT</b>  A—hands collide	<b>AMBULANCE</b>  A—thumb draws cross on sleeve <b>HOSPITAL-</b> Use H-hand	<b>ARREST</b>  5—hands drop, closing sharply	<b>HURT</b>  Jerk 1's close	<b>INSURANCE CARD</b>  Shake 1, then outline card	<b>INTERPRETER</b>  Twist 9's, touching. Hands down sides of body	<b>NOT/DON'T</b>  A—thumb from chin forward	<b>PAPER</b>  "Moisten point," then write on palm	<b>PENCIL</b>  "Moisten point," then write on palm
<b>CALL/PHONE</b>  Y—hand is phone	<b>CAR/DRIVE</b>  Drive with S's	<b>JAIL</b>  V-hands, right hits left	<b>JUDGE/COURT</b>  Alternately move 9's up and down (scales)	<b>LAW</b>  Lay L twice on hand	<b>PLEASE</b>  Circle palm on chest	<b>POLICE (MAN)</b>  Outline badge	<b>WHERE</b>  1 shakes sideways	<b>WHO</b>  1 circles mouth
<b>DEAF</b>  Touch ear. Touch sides of B's	<b>FOLLOW</b>  Right A follows left A forward	<b>GIVE</b>  O drops and opens	<b>LAWYER</b>  "Law" plus hands down sides of body	<b>LICENSE</b>  Tap L—thumbs twice	<b>LIGHT</b>  O springs open to 5	<b>QUESTION</b>  Index flicks question-mark, 1 to x to 1	<b>REGISTRATION</b>  R on fingers then on palm	<b>WRONG</b>  Y to chin
<b>GO</b>  Roll 1's forward	<b>ME/I</b>  Point at self	<b>MY</b>  Palm on chest	<b>NAME</b>  Tap side of H on side of H	<b>SHOW</b>  Index on palm; both move forward	<b>SPEEDING/FAST</b>  Snap out thumb forward	<b>STOP</b>  Side of hand hits palm	<b>UNDERSTAND</b>  Closed X to 1 at temple	<b>WHAT</b>  Index brushes down fingers
<b>HELP</b>  Right Palm lifts left S	<b>HOW</b>  Roll hands forward	<b>NEED</b>  Nod X twice	<b>NO</b>  Close 2 fingers and thumb	<b>NUMBER</b>  O's, touching, twist twice	<b>THANK YOU/ YOU'RE WELCOME</b>  Palm swings out from chin	<b>TICKET</b>  Bent-V slides onto side of palm (punch)	<b>YES</b>  Nod S (or Y)	<b>YOU/YOUR</b>  Point with 1 or palm (Point for other persons)

The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing is part of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, an equal opportunity employer/program that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. DLEG 0406-1086R. DODHH Pub. 115. Printed May 2006. 5,000 printed at \$475.25, or \$0.10 each.

