Your Rights to Communication ASL Video Transcript

The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that state and local governments, businesses, and other kinds of organizations provide communication for people with disabilities, as effectively as they do for people without disabilities.

In many cases, they are required to offer auxiliary aids and services at no cost to you.

You should always be able to communicate in a way that works for you, especially in important places like hospitals, doctor's offices, and courtrooms

What are auxiliary aids and services?

Auxiliary communication aids and services includes things like:

* Sign Language interpreters
* Video remote interpreting
* Notetakers
* Large print materials
* Captioning
* Assistive technology
* Screen readers
* Braille
* And other similar aids and services

There are some limits to this.

Governments, businesses, and non-profits don’t have to provide a specific aid or service if doing so is very difficult or expensive for them. In such cases, they must provide an alternative aid or service that is still effective.

You might need different things at different times.

For example, Micha is Deaf and uses sign language, she might not need an interpreter just to pay a bill at the doctor’s office. However, if Micha has an appointment to discuss her diagnosis, the doctor should provide a qualified sign language interpreter. The doctor may not charge a fee for providing the interpreter.

Businesses and government agencies might need some notice to get you what you need, so try to ask for help in advance. They still need to help you as much as they can, even if you cannot give them advanced notice.

It's your right to understand and be understood. Don't be afraid to ask for what you need.

For more information about your rights, go to ada.gov.

If you believe your rights have been violated, contact Disability Rights Maryland.

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