

Basic signs and tips for communicating with deaf people

Let's SIGN!

for Law Enforcement Personnel

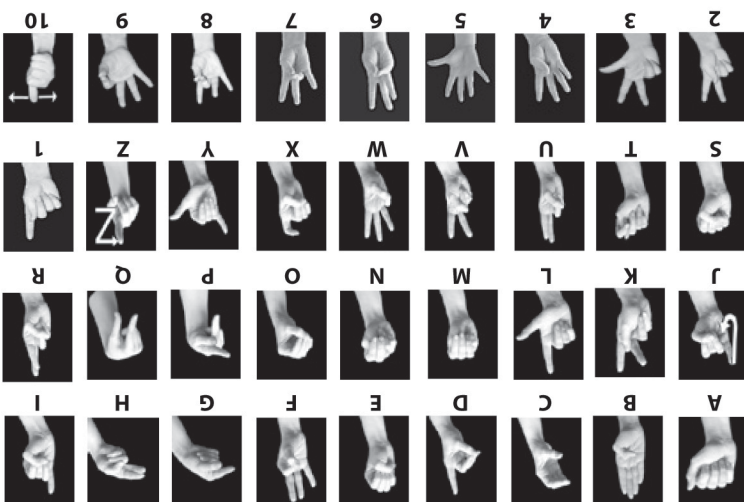
TIPS

Deaf people use a variety of ways to communicate. Fingerspelling and sign language are two ways. Many also use speechreading, speech and writing. Here are some suggestions for enhancing communication with deaf people regardless of the method.

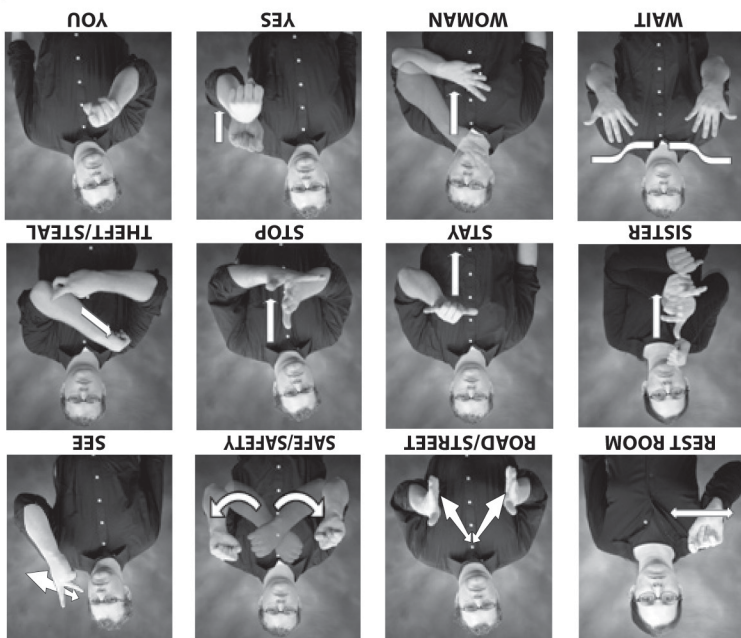
- Get the deaf person's attention before speaking. A light touch on the shoulder, a wave or other visual signal will help.
- Look directly at the deaf person when signing/ speaking, even when an interpreter is present.
- Speak slowly and clearly without shouting; don't exaggerate or overemphasize lip movement.
- Use body language and facial expression to supplement your communication.
- Maintain eye contact.
- If you have problems being understood, try rephrasing a thought using different words. Writing is also a good way to clarify.
- Keep your hands away from your face and mouth while speaking.
- Make sure lighting makes your face clearly visible.
- Long moustaches, gum chewing, cigarette smoking, pencil biting and similar obstructions of the lips will lessen the effectiveness of your communication.

This material provides a pictorial representation of basic signs that may help you communicate with a deaf or hard of hearing person until a professional sign language interpreter arrives. The pictures are sometimes difficult to replicate accurately, which is why using an interpreter is more effective.

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MANUAL ALPHABET





ABUSE



ACCIDENT



ADDRESS



AMBULANCE



ATTACK



BOY



BROTHER



BUY/PURCHASE



CALL/PHONE



CAR



CHILD/SHORT



COCAINE



COME



COMMUNICATE



COURT/TRIAL



DEAF



DRUGS



ESCAPE



FATHER



FORM



GIRL



GO



GUN



HARD OF HEARING



HEARING



HEARING AID



HOME



HOMICIDE



HOSPITAL



HURT, PAIN



HUSBAND



INTERPRETER



INTOXICATED



LAW/LEGAL



LAWYER



LICENSE



MACE



MAN



MARIJUANA



MOTHER



NO



PAY ATTENTION



POLICE



PROSTITUTION