

TDHHC Connections

Tyler Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center

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Communication Coordinator:
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This newsletter is dedicated to uniting the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of East Texas and all supporters by providing information and reporting events that enhance our lives and our community.

To receive a newsletter,
mail your name
and address to:

TDHHC at P.O. Box 6134
Tyler, TX 75711-6134,
or email
connections@tdhhc.org.

Know Your Rights: VRI vs. Live Interpreter

Video Link: <https://www.facebook.com/RLJ1988/videos/10213522810997759/>

Transcript:

White woman with long red hair, plain black shirt, and glasses on top of the head.

Hello my name is Rhonda Jennings-Arey, sign name is RJ. The purpose of this video is to help the Deaf people know your rights related to whether to choose VRI or a live interpreter. It is very important that you understand how to tell the hospital why you want a live interpreter. You cannot just say I want a live interpreter and that's it. You need to use the right words. It is important. I will put the chart in my comments, you can print it. Bring it with you when you face a situation like that. That will help you tell them what you want in writing or show them the card. It is important that you do this because you cannot just say you want a live interpreter. This is a weak argument. This vlog is for everyone that's Deaf. It is important that you say the right thing.

First you can pick one from the list as to why you need a live interpreter. 1. I cannot see the VRI screen. 2. The screen is so small that I cannot understand the interpreter. 3. The video freezes and I cannot understand the interpreter. 4. The VRI interpreter struggles to hear the nurse or doctor or vice versa. 5. VRI video disconnects often that it is not reliable. 6. The hospital staff does not know how to set up the VRI. 6 things. Just pick one. These are the reasons why you need a live interpreter.

With these 6 reasons available, just pick one. If they still do not obligate and want a stronger argument like a law, that is ok. There is one. In order for the VRI to be good, it must meet all 4 requirements.

1. Is the VRI video and sound smooth, and has a high quality? Is the WiFi speed good to help the picture quality? If yes, then (the VRI has met the federal requirement) "check". Can the VRI interpreter and customer see each other's face, arms, hands, and fingers? If yes, then the VRI has met the requirements. "Check". 3. Can the VRI interpreter hear the doctor or nurse? Can the doctor or nurse hear the VRI interpreter? If yes, "check". 4. Do the nurse or doctor, hospital staff know how to set up the VRI equipment? If yes, "check".

To recap: Clear video, smooth, no freezing. Can see each other. Can everyone hear each other. Do the hospital staff know how to set up the VRI? If YES to all, then the VRI is okay and admissible. Unless there is something else going on.

Now NAD has its own position statement at NAD website (link is at the end of video) which is very detailed about this issue. I am only providing a summary. Now they have gave a statement where VRI is not good for the type of patient:

1. Patients who are hurt that prevents them from seeing the screen, then VRI is not good for them. 2. Patients with heavy medication, drunk, or high should not have a VRI because they cannot be accommodated this way. 3. Emotional patients who are violent or lose their temper should not use VRI. 4. If I struggle with language such as ASL or English, or do not understand things, then I should not use VRI. 5. A low vision patient such as Deafblind should not use VRI. They would not be able to see the screen. This is not a good idea. 6. Children are not to use VRI because they are not skilled with accommodating a person's language.

This is about how VRI does not work with what kind of patient. If you are this patient, tell them VRI will not work for me because I am... (this kind of patient). For example, if you are drunk and know VRI won't work, tell them. You know yourself as a patient.

NAD has also made a statement how VRI does not agree with certain situations. They are: 1. If the doctor is about to discuss a serious illness or give you a diagnosis, then VRI is not for you. The reason is because you can become very emotional. 2. If you are meeting a specialist for the first time, then VRI is not for you. Maybe it will be okay to use VRI in other sessions, who knows. It all depends on your sessions. 3. Eye exam, VRI is definitely not for you. You might receive eye drops that dilate your eyes and cannot see the VRI screen. 4. If you are involved with a mental health screening, sessions, etc with counseling, psychologist, or psychiatrist, then VRI is not for you. 5. OT or PT occupational therapist or physical therapist, then VRI is not for you because you would be doing things and it will be difficult to move the VRI equipment as you go along. 6. Last one... if I am transported from room to surgery or vice versa then VRI is not for you. They cannot bring the VRI equipment along as you "travel".

If you are a patient who can have a VRI, but face situations like these, then you can tell them you need a live interpreter because of... (one of the reasons listed).

You need to understand that VRI must work in order to be useful. If you can see, they know what to do, as a patient I can see and have no physical limitation, and can see... You as a patient are fine and the situations listed are not happening, like you are not involved in PT, OT, Mental Health, no sensitive discussion with doctor, then VRI is your accommodation. If the VRI meets all requirements, then VRI is good to go. BUT you still have rights based on these things in the chart. Remember do not just say you need a live interpreter. Tell them WHY from the chart. Pick one and write it or show them. You do have a right. If the hospital says you still must use VRI when VRI does not meet the conditions, do not accept it. Do not let them bully you. But you must use proof of why VRI does not work for you. You have rights. It is important that you know your rights.

For the rest of the story, please visit: <https://oad1921.org/article/know-your-rights-vri-vs-live-interpreter>. Or to view the video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGTFH84oX7A>.

EUGENIO ALANIZ

1926 – 2018



Mr. Eugenio Estrengel Alaniz, age 91, of Mineola, passed away on Saturday March 17, 2018 in Tyler. Mr Alaniz was born November 16, 1926 to Vicente Alaniz and Amalia Estrengel in San Diego, TX.

Mr. Alaniz is survived by his wife Martha Lea Alaniz, sons; Ronnie Alaniz, David Alaniz, Edward O'Hara, daughters; Sharlene Copaus, Judy Weaver, Cheryl Lucas, Kathy Tucker, and Dianne O'Hara, seventeen grandchildren, twenty-six great grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and a sister Elma Usrey.

He is preceded in death by his parents, first wife Avie Alaniz, brothers; Eduardo Alaniz, and Everardo Alaniz, sister Elida Salinas, and a great grandson Colten O'Hara.

<p>I need a sign language interpreter on site because (choose one or more):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I cannot see the VRI screen. 2) The VRI screen is too small; I cannot understand the interpreter. 3) The VRI machine keeps freezing and/or pixelating; I cannot understand the interpreter. 4) The VRI interpreter cannot hear you and therefore cannot interpret. 5) The VRI machine has disconnected too many times. It is not reliable. 6) The personnel here do not know how to set up the VRI machine. 	<p>Per federal regulations, VRI does not provide effective communication unless it meets all of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Real-time, full-motion video/audio over high-speed, wide-bandwidth video/wireless connection that delivers high-quality video that does not produce lags, blurry or grainy images, or pauses in communication. 2) A sharply delineated image large enough to display interpreter's face, arms, hands, and fingers, and participating individual's face, arms, hands, and fingers, regardless of body position. 3) A clear, audible transmission of voices. 4) Adequate training to users of technology so that they may quickly and efficiently set up and operate the VRI.
<p>According to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), VRI is not appropriate for the following types of patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Patients with an injury that impedes their ability to view the screen; * Patients who are heavily medicated or intoxicated; * Patients who are highly emotional or present with violent tendencies; * Patients with cognitive limitations; * Patients with a secondary disability (e.g., low vision); * Children. 	<p>According to the National Association of the Deaf (NAD), VRI is not appropriate for the following types of situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Highly sensitive communications (e.g., diagnosis or discussion of a serious illness); * Initial meetings with a specialist; * Eye exams; * Some mental health settings; * Some occupational and physical therapy sessions; * Patient transport.

www.nad.org



15 ALLISHA GRAY

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING NIGHT

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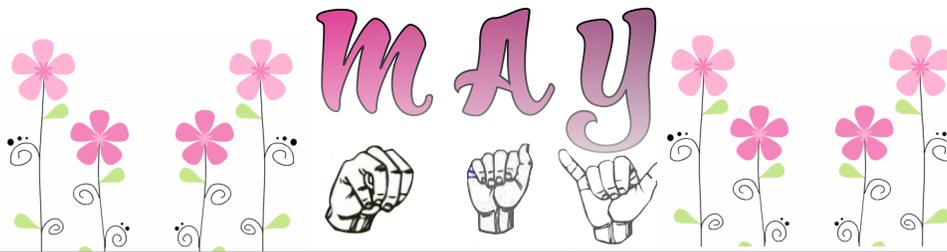
DID YOU KNOW?



Bill Clinton, former President of the United States, has hearing loss due to age and the time he spent playing the saxophone during his youth.

Please email your FAVORITE RECIPES to us at: coordinator@tdhnc.org. We will be collecting those for a cookbook fundraiser to support the East Texas Deaf Festival in 2019. Thank you!





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Fundraiser 	10	11	12
13 Happy Mother's Day! 	14	15	16	17	18 	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31		

May 5: TDHHC Board Meet & Greet at Rudy's BBQ across from TJC West Campus (1410 S SW Loop 323), 11AM (Lunch on your own or eat at Rudy's.)

May 5: TMAD Meeting at TJC West Campus (Room TBA), 1PM

May 5: Volleyball at Sonic (West Loop 323 & 64), 3PM – 5PM

May 5: Coffee Chat at Starbucks in Tyler (East SE Loop 323), 7PM – 9PM

May 9: Fundraiser at BJ's (210 Loop 323) – each person needs to bring a flyer with them!
 Eat dinner between 5:30PM – 9:30PM

Senior citizens support TDHHC and will meet on May 9th at BJ's instead of usual Thursday luncheon.

May 13: Mother's Day

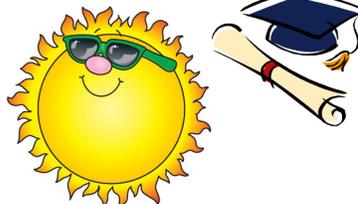
May 18: Deaf Chat at Whataburger in Lindale (311 S Main St), 7PM – 9PM

May 28: Memorial Day

Save the Date!

June 2: Deaf Day Dallas Wings game (www.dallaswings.com/promo; code: DeafEmpower18)

Best wishes to all students graduating this month! Summer is just around the corner...



Check out our **UPDATED WEBSITE!** Visit www.tdhhc.org to see a current list of local worship services that use ASL or provide interpreters. Also, we have a new feedback form on the website for those who have used our interpreting services. We appreciate your feedback!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Building Bridges event to make it a great success! Pictures will be in the next newsletter.



For more event details, visit www.tdhhc.org.



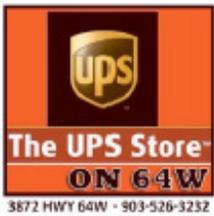
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\$25 for 3 months! Advertise
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tdhhc.org](mailto:coordinator@tdhhc.org) for more details.
Limited space available.

Thank you!

ANONYMOUS DONOR 



Join us for

..... a delicious way to

RAISE MONEY!

Date: May 9, 2018 - Wednesday

Time: 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM

At this BJ's location: 210 Loop 323 WSW
Tyler, TX 75703
903-939-2840

Enjoy delicious food in a fun atmosphere along with your family and friends while earning funds in support of:

Tyler Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center

With each flyer presented during this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**, BJ's will donate **20% OF FOOD AND SOFT BEVERAGE SALES** to the designated organization!

Valid for dine in or take out. Not valid towards alcoholic beverages or Happy Hour specials. Please do not distribute flyers on-site during the event. Flyers must be printed and presented to the server.



BJ's Favorite Deep Dish Pizza



Crispy Fried Artichokes



Crispy Jalapeño Burger



M A Y 3 8 5