

Providing Access to Effective Communication

Guide for Virginia Courts

If you need ASL interpreting or CART services for a scheduled court proceeding, please [contact the clerk of the court where the proceeding will be held](#) to request accommodations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires courts to avoid discriminating against people with disabilities. Entities must ensure that people with disabilities are treated equally in the criminal justice system and that they have equal opportunity to benefit from safe, inclusive communities.¹

VDDHH and the Supreme Court of Virginia

VDDHH and the Supreme Court of Virginia have worked together, in accordance with the Code of Virginia (Criminal Code §19.2-164.1 and Civil Code §8.01-384.1), to ensure that persons who are deaf or hard of hearing who have business with any Virginia court have access to effective communication through Sign Language Interpreters or CART services. The full text of the current Memorandum of Understanding can be found on the [Supreme Court website](#). The Supreme Court of Virginia compensates interpreters scheduled through VDDHH for authorized court needs.

Requesting an ASL Interpreter or CART Services

The Clerk of any court of the Commonwealth or any judge, special justice, court-appointed counsel, defense attorney, magistrate, or other authorized personnel may contact VDDHH to secure a qualified interpreter or CART provider for any in-person court or court-related assignment in which a deaf or hard of hearing person is involved or requests access.² Authorized court personnel will fill out a [Court Sign Language Interpreter/CART Request Form](#) and send it to VDDHH. Please see '[Virginia Court Personnel Resource Card - Accommodations for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Participants in Virginia's Judicial System](#)' for further information.

Questions?

Please contact us at isp@vddhh.virginia.gov.

For a digital copy of this document with clickable hyperlinks, please use the QR code or go to <https://www.vadsa.org/apps/DocumentRepository/Viewer/fileviewer/3437>.



¹"Highlights." ADA Criminal Justice: Ensuring Equality in the Criminal Justice System for People with Disabilities, <https://www.ada.gov/criminaljustice/>.

²Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia. "Memorandum of Understanding." 1 Nov. 2022.



Virginia Department for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing