

# Michigan Association for Deaf & Hard of Hearing



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## *The Totally Hearing Accessible Court System*

### WHAT TO CONSIDER

- **Determine communication mode preferred by person needing hearing accommodations:**
  - Sign language users may require an interpreter
  - Speech and residual hearing users may require assistive listening equipment or CART (Computer Aided Real Time captioning)
  - Oral interpreters may be preferred by those you rely on speech reading for understanding. It is significantly easier to speech read one trained interpreter than a variety of speakers who may not always be facing the person requiring accommodation.
  
- **Interpreters:**
  - Must have certification appropriate for legal situations.
  
- **Accommodations should be provided in all settings and for all communication:**
  - Courtroom
  - Jury Deliberation Room
  - Judges Chambers
  - Conference room
  
- **Provide telephone access:**
  - TTY
  - Amplified phone
  - CapTel
  - Videophone
  
- Post signs to inform public of available accommodations and the means to request.
  
- Designate and train a staff person to serve as resource to deaf and hard of hearing people and other court personnel.